

THE JOURNAL

Friday, January 4, 2002

50 cents (tax included)

Community Folk Piano lessons were the start of a full life for June Maberry [A2]

Arts 'Gosford Park' has a winning formula [C3]

Reform plan would put burden on schools

By Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Mariana Mendoza wants to study medicine at an East Coast university. But she has to pass 12th-grade science first.

"In chemistry I haven't been doing very well lately," said Mariana, a senior at Kennedy High School in Richmond. "It's kinda hard."

A tutor would be a big help, but Mariana said her family cannot afford to pay for one.

As early as next fall, federal legislation aimed at reforming the nation's schools will help thousands of California students like Mariana by forcing under-performing schools to pick up the tab if their students ask for outside tutoring.

The bipartisan bill won congressional approval this month, and President Bush is expected to sign it early next year. The bill increases federal education spending to \$22 billion, up from \$18 billion.

California schools will get about \$4 billion of that over two years to boost funding at the poorest schools and to pay for teacher quality programs, bilingual education, after-school programs and technology.

But the money does not come without strings.

Included in the bill is something Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, refers to as a "safety valve" — a way to "provide children trapped in chronically failing schools a way out."

Parents whose children attend blackboard schools will be able to choose from a list of state-approved providers and — at their school's expense — get private tutoring for their child, including programs offered by religious providers. Parents will also be able to transfer their children out of failing schools, with the school picking up the cost of transportation to a better-performing campus.

For the 83 Contra Costa and Alameda county schools the state already considers failing, the program would begin in September. Other schools would have two years to show improved academic performance before parents are given the same option.

Ron Perkins, executive director of the East County Boys and Girls Club, which offers after-school tutoring, was thrilled when told about the bill.

"Beautiful," he said. "That would be awesome."

The state deems nine of Pittsburgh's 11 schools to be failing. Each weekday, about 150 students travel to the Pittsburgh Boys and Girls Club looking for help with their homework. But the club can afford to employ just one teacher's aide, and the students could use more help.

"From my perspective, the reason I'm involved is just to give the kids the most well-rounded opportunities they can have," Perkins said. "Whatever help we can get to do that, we'll take."

Connie Kucera, whose eighth-grade son attends Adams Middle School in Richmond, said a lot of parents want extra tutoring for their children but cannot pay the high fees. Still, she sees problems with the federal bill.

"I'm sure (parents) would like it," she said. "But how would they get their child there? How would they pick them up? We're talking about a transportation problem for a good many of these kids."

MAKING TIME ... AND A DIFFERENCE



CHRISTINA JUNG of El Cerrito sorts donated food at the Berkeley Salvation Army. She is one of many young people who are giving up their time to help good causes. Below, Ben Stolurow and Christopher Haugh put in some time to assist with the opening of an art gallery in Albany.

Young volunteers shine

■ Their achievements would make anyone wonder, "What have I been doing lately?"

By Martin Snapp
CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA has a secret weapon, more powerful than all our guns, bombs, tanks, planes, computers, satellites, factories, stores, banks and farms combined.

It's our children. Sociologists and demographers are already detecting unmistakable signs of greatness in them.

"They are beginning to manifest a wide array of positive social habits that older Americans no longer associate with youth, including a new focus on teamwork, achievement, modesty and good conduct," write Neil Howe and William Strauss, authors of "Millennials Rising."

"They have a solid chance to become America's next great generation, as celebrated for their collective deeds a hundred years from now as the generation of John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Joe DiMaggio and Jimmy Stewart is celebrated today."

This isn't mere theory; the evidence is all around us. Here are profiles of some young people in our own community who are already making things better. They come from different races and backgrounds, but they have one thing in common: What they do, they do for love — not because it will look good on their college application.

And here's the best news: They're just the tip of the iceberg.

Charley Walton, 13, Berkeley

It's a Friday afternoon at the Berkeley Marina. The sun is be-



ginning to set, and all the feral cats hiding in the bushes know what that means: It's almost time for Charley Walton to arrive.

As soon as they hear his approaching footsteps, they pop out of their hiding places and run up to greet him. There's a skinny tabby named Tommy, two Siamese sisters named Hildy and Tricia, and a pair of otherwise reclusive grays named Susan and Rocky. Happiest of all is a black-and-white named Amanda, who nuzzles contentedly against Charley's leg.

"Nice kitty, nice kitty," he murmurs, reaching down to stroke the little cat as she gazes up at him in adoration.

Charley is the youngest member of Fix Our Ferals, a non-profit volunteer group that cares for these hapless creatures in Berkeley, Oakland, El Cerrito, Albany, and other cities in the East Bay. They feed them and monitor their health. Whenever possible, they humanely trap them and take them to cooperating local vets for spay/neuter surgery, teeth cleaning and whatever other medical attention is needed.

If the cats are tame enough to

be adopted, they're placed in loving new homes. If not, they're returned to their colonies, where they live out their natural lives under the watchful eyes of Charley and his colleagues. As a result, the local feral cat population is gradually going down, not up.

Charley has been doing this for almost half his life, since he was 7. It all started the day his own cat, Poofus, accidentally got outside and went missing. In their frantic search, Charley and his parents met Linda McCormick, a longtime cat caregiver who was just in the beginning stages of founding Fix Our Ferals.

She was a great help and comfort to them in their search; but alas, Poofus' body was found a few days later. He had been hit by a car.

Charley was crushed, but he decided to turn his sorrow into something constructive. "If I can't help Poofus, at least I can help other cats," he told his parents. So he became a charter member of Fix Our Ferals. He was assigned the Friday slot at the Berkeley Marina. (A different

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 3

Fairmount 'streetscape' goes to public

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — Plans are afoot for a busy, attractive and pedestrian-friendly Fairmount Avenue retail scene.

City planners and consultants will hold a public workshop next week on a Fairmount Avenue streetscape master plan for Fairmount between San Pablo Avenue and the BART tracks.

The streetscape plan could include sidewalk enhancements, street furniture, streetlights, banners, landscaping and even an entryway arch over the avenue.

"Essentially what urban design seeks to do is create a sense of place so it's just not Anywhere, USA," said Dennis Carrington, the city's planning manager. "So there are visual cues that tell you you're in a special place. Do we want Fairmount Avenue to be a 4th Street?"

There are similarities to the successful West Berkeley shopping district, he said. "It's got a running start now with the stores facing on it from the Plaza."

Along with the larger stores that have already opened at the

Plaza including Ross, Bed Bath & Beyond, Albertson's and Pier 1 Imports, Carrington pointed out that several other businesses will open in the new Plaza and along Fairmount.

New restaurants will include Pasta Pomodoro, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Rubio's Baja Grill and Cold Stone Creamery. A stand-alone Starbucks coffee shop on Fairmount will join the Starbucks already inside Albertson's and one to be inside the Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Other businesses include a beauty salon, Petco, Dress Barn, Hallmark, Silver Screen Video, Shoe Pavilion, a cell phone store, All Star Donuts and Mail Boxes Etc.

"A lot of things are happening there," Carrington said. "We'd like to see, over time, Fairmount Avenue turn into a nice streetscape."

He said the city and the consultant are looking for public input on the Fairmount Avenue plan.

"Do you want us to pave it in green slate like they did in Livermore? Do you want big flagpoles

See STREETScape, Page 10



A TEMPORARY DAM behind David Seely's house was built to keep storm water from a broken drainage pipe away from his home.

Worn-out culvert damages man's Kensington house

■ Aging storm drains dot the hills, and officials say nothing can be done because they predate today's strict codes

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

In early December, David Seely woke up at 5 a.m. to the sound of water — splashing, gurgling, gushing.

This is strange, thought Seely, who lives high on the Kensington hillside, far from oceans, rivers, lakes and bays.

Looking out his window, Seely discovered his Spanish-style, single-story stucco home of 34 years surrounded by murky brown water. On further inspection, Seely found water seeping inside, across carpets and floors.

It's been "Nightmare on Franciscan Way" ever since.

Unbeknownst to Seely or, it seems, anyone else, a buried 24-inch-diameter storm drain runs downhill next to his house, tunneling run-off on its journey to the San Francisco Bay.

The metal drain, which probably was installed at least 50 years ago by a developer or builder, appears to have clogged uphill from Seely's property and burst open, sending hundreds of gallons of water underground to his house.

Seely's yard remains flooded, and recent rains have made matters much worse as the water continues to cascade into his property. At one point, Seely measured 2 feet of sludge outside his door.

Damage estimates are already in the thousands and climbing steadily.

"I'm at a loss of what to do," said Seely, a retired television station engineer. "We've been so busy trying to protect our house, it's been impossible to figure out how to stop the stream. And none of this water is mine. It's all from above me."

To top it all off, county officials say there's nothing they can do about the situation, because the culvert is on privately owned land and was put in before today's strict codes.

Similar situations could be brewing elsewhere, because the residential East Bay hills are dotted with aging storm drains and nobody knows where they are, warns a county engineer.

"It's very unfortunate," said Contra Costa County senior engineer Stan Matsumoto. "Many homeowners probably don't even know that a pipe exists under their property."

In addition to pulling up carpets and scrubbing the inside of their house, Seely and his wife,

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Tickets tiny but mighty

For many BART riders, leftover train tickets are the equivalent of loose change stuffed between the couch cushions, or accumulating in a bedroom drawer or desk. But now a cooperative effort between BART and an East Bay philanthropic organization is making use of tickets with 10 or 15 cents left on them. Through the Tiny Ticket program, an effort by BART and the East Bay Community Foundation, riders can donate their unwanted tickets to several organizations, which in turn will be able to turn them into cash. The program will run through March of this year and from October through December of subsequent years. For more information, call BART at 510-464-7135 or the

East Bay Community Foundation at 510-836-3223.

Time at the Magnes

"Telling Time: To Everything There Is a Season," an exhibit structured around the seasons of the year and the seasons of life with objects ranging from the sacred and the secular, to the provocative and the whimsical. Highlights from Jewish and other cultures such as Tibetan and Mexican-American include treasures from ceremonial and folk art, rare books and manuscripts, contemporary and traditional fine art, video, photography and cultural kitsch through May 2002. 291 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950 or www.magnesmuseum.org

Child-size museum

Habitot is a museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library. A current exhibit, "Back to the Farm," gives children the chance to wiggle through tunnels like an earthworm, look into a mirrored fish pond, don farm animal costumes, ride on a John Deere tractor and more. Kittridge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 510-647-1111 or www.habitot.org

ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Let's throw a spring festival

By James Carter

ALBANY CHAMBER

WE PERFORMED the mental equivalent of taking the polar bear swim this New Year at the Chamber, men and women bravely diving into the icy cold waters of the future. How incredibly invigorating! Though one's skin shrinks two sizes, disguising color and gender, moments later, when the frost melts, the mind is suddenly clear, the senses alert, thoughts focused. And we asked the heavens, "What should we do this year?"

Then, suddenly a thought, a revelation, a vision. Finger on lips in pause, eyebrows arched, eyes straight ahead, neurons charged, the mind awash with endorphins, we think. And then BAM! That's it! What Albany needs is a Spring Festival!

A Spring Festival. This is just an idea at this point — a rather good idea, a great idea — actually, a grand one. Now we need to give it form, to make it happen.

Some tentative thoughts: One evening all the restaurants in town set up booths indoors at Memorial Park Building. After a spectacular media campaign, thousands of people flock into town, tickets in hand, and enjoy "A Taste of Albany." Earlier that day, merchants offer special discounts on goods, schools open, and we have an Albany Open House. Have a building you want to rent? It will be showcased that day.

During our festival, there will be music offered in infinite variety at the favorite haunts of the young, the old, and those in the zone in-between. Neighborhood bars can fire up the barbecue and organize ballgames; clubs can feature popular bands drawn by the sheer thrill of being in our Spring Festival; theaters can show movies (per-

haps even outdoors at night).

Then there are the clowns and jugglers. But we go to work every day anyway ...

Well, this is our tentative plan. Now we need people to make it happen, to fill in the blanks, or to re-write the entire scenario.

If you have ideas, if you want to be involved from the beginning in planning this event and making it happen, call us here at the Chamber. We will have our first meeting to discuss plans the third week of January. Our number is 510-525-1771.

A very good year

We are confident this is going to be a very good year in Albany. Already the signs are there. There's a rush of new members joining the chamber, many of them young. Beginning sometime in mid-January, ten or so members of the Albany High School Leadership Class will be volunteering at the chamber as interns, helping to design a new web page, survey merchants and other businesses, and to help us begin plans for the Spring Festival.

Raffle winner

Yasmine Cook-Zackery from California Bank and Trust took first prize in this year's raffle, winning an Apex Digital DVD/Video CD Player. "I've never won anything before!" she declared in disbelief when told of her prize. Other winners took home gifts such as \$100 in Disney bucks, gift certificates to Nizza La Bella Restaurant, Five Star Video, and The Mallard Club, to name just a few. Thanks to all who donated prizes, including Mary & Joe's, the Albany YMCA, and Landmark Theaters.

New member

Aki Taguchi, a realtor with

Prudential California Realty, is the newest member of the Chamber. Aki has lived in Albany for 15 years, and his two children both went to school here. Daughter Amy attends UC Irvine now, and son Mike is currently teaching in Korea. Aki is anxious to do what he can to help the community of Albany. He is currently assisting us in our membership drive, translating into Japanese a flyer explaining the benefits of joining the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Taguchi, a true gentleman, will prove to be a tremendous asset to the entire community as well as the Chamber.

Also new: The Cape Cod — a Seafood Restaurant located on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue. Owned and operated by Sumalee (Sue) Nanongkay, and her husband, Sonny, the Cape Cod offers lunch and dinner featuring a broad variety of fresh seafood and tasty specials.

To name a few, there are crab cakes and mussels, sole stuffed with shrimp and crab, pasta and salads and New York Steaks — all offered at very reasonable prices. Check out their early bird specials (from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturday)

Here is one example: Hot sourdough bread wrapped in linen, a fresh salad or homemade soup, poached or grilled salmon with veggies and rice or potatoes for \$9.95! Sue's two nieces, Rida and Rane, wait tables, the three of them lovely and charming: They will make you feel right at home. Add a glass of wine, also reasonably priced, and you have a nice evening out at a price where you can afford to take the entire family.

Piano lessons were start of full life for Maberry

WHATEVER June Maberry does she does with her whole heart, giving her all to every task, and enjoying recreational events hugely. Living so intensely takes its toll, but makes for a very interesting life.

Born June Paula Weiner in Chicago, at the age of 5 she entered the music conservatory to study piano. Her parents, who seem to have had the same passion for life, bought a grand piano "the first time they had a

CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

little money."

When she was 7 the family moved to Southern California to try to find a solution to her severe asthma. Finding she only got worse there, they moved to Tajunga, which was known as a good place for asthmatics. There her parents bought a home and her father,

who had been working for the Veterans Administration, started his own law practice.

For some time June lived in a home for asthmatic children. June sang at her graduation from elementary school, played piano, was valedictorian when she graduated from high school, and was chosen the Sweetheart for the Sweetheart Ball.

Her tremendous verve for

See GENSER, Page A7

POLICE REPORTS

Oops — the car was borrowed, not stolen

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On the night of Dec. 17 an Albany resident reported that his white '90 Chevrolet Lumina was stolen while parked on the 900 block of Stannage Avenue. There were no witnesses. About three hours later he called to cancel the report saying that he had forgotten that his brother had borrowed the car.

■ On the night of Dec. 17 Oakland police reported locating a bronze '00 Nissan Altima that had been stolen from Albany. The vehicle had not been damaged but both license plates were missing. The owner was notified.

■ At about 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 18 an Albany woman called to report that her black '99 Honda Civic had been stolen. She was not aware it was missing until she received a call from El Cerrito police who told her they had been trying to stop her vehicle but had lost it on the freeway. They were checking to see if she had been driving.

■ On the morning of Dec. 18 a resident on the 700 block of Jackson Street reported that during the night thieves had stolen building materials that were in his driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Dec. 18 a resident at 545 Pierce Street reported that during the night thieves had broken into his silver '00 Honda Accord and stole the in-dash stereo. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 10 a.m. on Dec. 19 Albany officers responded to reports of two people in a silver Toyota Corolla who had just smashed the window of a vehicle parked at Oceanview School on the 1000 block of Jackson Street. They were last seen heading toward I-880 and were gone when officers arrived.

■ At about 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 19 a resident on the 800 block of Ramona Avenue reported observing a man get out of a truck parked next door to her and act suspiciously. Officers contacted the 39 year old Rodeo man and found him to be confused and intoxicated. He was unable to care for himself. He was arrested, cited and transported to a medical facility.

■ Several apartments on Marin, Kains and Stannage Avenues reported that storage lockers in the garage area had been broken into during the night of Dec. 20. There were no witnesses.

■ On the night of Dec. 20 Albany officers stopped a green '94

Ford Explorer on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 34 year old Richmond man was found to be intoxicated and in possession of a controlled substance. The passenger, a 36 year old Richmond man, was also found to be in possession of drugs. Both men were arrested, cited and transported to the Berkeley Marshall's office.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 21 Albany officers responded to the area near San Pablo and Brighton Avenues on reports of a vehicle accident involving a red Chrysler that apparently rear-ended another car. No one was injured but the driver of the Chrysler, a 39 year old Oakland woman, was found to be intoxicated and failed the Field Sobriety Test. She was arrested, cited and held to be released when sober.

■ On the morning of Dec. 21 a resident on the 800 block of Masonic Avenue reported that during the night thieves smashed the window of his gray '91 Volvo and stole items from inside. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of Dec. 21 a resident on the 800 block of Cornell Avenue reported that thieves had broken into his unlocked blue Honda Accord and stole the stereo. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Dec. 22 Albany officers stopped a silver Infiniti for a vehicle code violation near San Pablo Avenue and Page Street. The driver, a 29 year old Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested, cited and held to be released when sober.

■ At about 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 22 Albany officers responded to the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of an assault and the attacker was seen leaving in a white pickup. Officers located the pickup in El Cerrito near Central Avenue and arrested the driver, a 41 year old Richmond man, for battery.

■ At about 1 a.m. on Dec. 23 Albany officers stopped a maroon '91 Toyota Corolla near Marin and Carmel Avenues for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a Berkeley man, was found to be intoxicated and was arrested for DUI. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ At about 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 23 Albany officers stopped a gold '93 Honda for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 22 year old El Cerrito man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested,

cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ At about 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 23 officers stopped a '92 Ford on the 400 block of San Pablo Avenue for an illegal U-turn. The driver, a 26 year old San Jose woman, was found to be intoxicated and was arrested. The passenger, a 32 year old Richmond man, was also arrested for being intoxicated. Both were cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the afternoon of Dec. 23 an Albany man reported that a gray '96 Infiniti had been taken into while it was parked in a garage on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ On the night of Dec. 23 Cerrito police reported locating a tan '86 Nissan pickup that had been reported as stolen from Albany on Dec. 19. A Richmond man and a Richmond woman were in the vehicle and had been arrested. They were both taken to Contra Costa County jail. The owner was notified.

■ At about 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 24 a man brought a 51 year old Montana woman to the Albany police station. He had met her at a bar on the 800 block of Solano Avenue and she had become intoxicated. He had attempted to take her home but she passed out in his car and he did not know where she lived. She was arrested, cited and released when sober.

■ At about 7 p.m. on Dec. 24 a resident on the 1100 block of Ordway Street reported that thieves had stolen her blue Acura Legend within the previous hour. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 24 Albany officers stopped a red Acura on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. The driver, a year old Massachusetts man, was found to be intoxicated. He was arrested and his vehicle towed.

Between Dec. 17 and Dec. 24 Albany officers towed five vehicles, responded to 13 burglaries, attended to 10 lost or deceased animals, assisted five people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to five reports of barking dogs. The domestic arena officers responded to two domestic disputes, 16 civil disturbances and 124 civil assists. Officers stopped 135 cars and/or pedestrians, issuing 32 citations and 103 warnings. Albany firefighter/paramedics responded to five medical emergencies.

Report of a fight leads to arrest in El Cerrito

By J.R. Deaton

STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — At 7:20 p.m. Dec. 28 police responded to a call of a fight in a house in the 1500 block of Liberty Street. Police searched a man at the scene, a 42-year-old El Cerrito resident on probation, and found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in his bedroom. The suspect was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia and was found to be under the influence of a central-nervous-system stimulant.

■ At 2:21 a.m. Dec. 27 on South 55th Street near Potrero Avenue two men got into a fight. One man pulled another from his vehicle and then drove away in the victim's vehicle. It was located soon after, but the suspect got away.

■ At 10:22 p.m. Dec. 19 a 23-

year-old man with no known address was arrested in the 6100 block of Potrero Avenue after being found in a prone position and intoxicated in front of a restaurant.

■ At 3:30 p.m. Dec. 13 a juvenile was caught trying to steal a small amount of merchandise from the Target store on San Pablo Avenue. Sometime between 12:30 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. Dec. 11 an unidentified person stole the mail from the mailbox of a house in the 1500 block of Elm Street.

■ About 7 p.m. Dec. 11 a 19-year-old Richmond man had the

oil in his Honda changed at Speed Oil Change business in the 10100 block of San Pablo Avenue. The man reportedly gave a telephone and telephone number to alter the work order and drove off. However, for reasons the police port does not reveal, the man returned to the shop and paid his bill in full.

■ At 10:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Wienschnitzal in the 11100 block of San Pablo Avenue two un-

See BLOTTER, Page A7

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These Millennial kids are more than all right

"To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with Destiny." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

I CAN'T THINK of a more positive note to start the new year on than the profiles of those extraordinary young people starting on page A1. Interviewing them was a pleasure, and a sure antidote to cynicism.

But when I call them "extraordinary," I mean by our standards. Compared to the rest of their generation, they're just typical. And that's the best news of all.

I've interviewed many, many young people over the years, from the Cafe Eclectica in Albany to the Leonard J. Waxdeck Birdcalling Contest at Piedmont High. I've also talked with teachers and school administrators. And they've all noticed the same thing I have: There's been a huge change in young people. A change for the better.

What's happened is that it's a whole new generation. Gone are the sad, lonely, neglected Gen-Xers, the "latchkey kids" of the '70s. Now the schools are populated by Millennials,



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

the "baby on board" kids of the '80s and the "Have you hugged your kid today?" kids of the '90s. They've grown up to be the "can-do" kids of today.

What made them so great? It's not magic; it's the old computer principle — "garbage in, garbage out." This is what you get when you treat a kid right. I also talked with the parents of the young people I interviewed, and a nicer bunch of people I've never met. Without exception, their kids are the most important thing in their lives. They've put a lot of time, thought, love and energy into raising them right. And they take justifiable pride in seeing what exemplary human beings their children are turning out to be.

So there are actually two groups who deserve a pat on the back: young people and their parents. All you moms and dads out there, take a bow.

I've met your children, and I'm witness to the fact that you've done a terrific job.

I just got an e-mail from Reggie Zelnik that made me sit up and take notice. Reggie is a Russian history professor at Cal. He was also a longtime friend of Mario Savio's. (They were both on the FSM Steering Committee during the Free Speech Movement.) In the years since, Reggie never lost his clear moral vision. So when he says something is worth looking into, I pay attention.

He and some of his colleagues in the History Department are trying to mobilize support for a very worthy nonprofit organization in Russia called "NITs Memorial," a group of socially conscious scholars, teachers, and students of Russian history and culture. (In Russian, "NITs" is an acronym for Research and Information Center.)

They've set themselves the daunting task of uncovering the truth of what really happened during the Red Terror. Working on a shoestring, NITs Memorial is an apartment in St. Petersburg — with an archive, library, computers and seminar room — where staff

and volunteers exhume and memorialize the stories of previously anonymous victims of terror during the Communist years.

They collect archival and oral sources, organize exhibitions and conferences, and publish relevant books and articles.

"I know these people, and they do great work," says Reggie, which is good enough for me. Just as the AFL-CIO adopted Solidarity during the Cold War, American historians are trying to support NITs. Keep in mind that Reggie is a proud progressive, so he has no ideological ax to grind here. As a historian — and as a human being — he has an overriding commitment to the truth, wherever it leads.

But it's not just important for professional historians, it's important for all of us that the truth finally come out — if only as a warning to future generations. As Santayana said, those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.

Anyone interested in making a contribution, or simply in learning more about what they do, can visit the Memorial Web site at www.memorial-inc.ru.

■ ■ ■

Finally, I haven't seen "The Lord of the Rings" yet, but I probably will — despite my own attempt long ago to prevent it from ever reaching the screen.

I got turned on to J.R.R. Tolkien in 1966, when I was a junior in college. I spent the entire final exam period reading the trilogy instead of what I should have been doing: cramming for the tests. (Oddly, I got the best grades I ever got, which should tell us something.)

I got so turned on, in fact, I became alarmed at the possibility that someone like Walt Disney would get his hands on "The Lord of the Rings" and give it the Hollywood treatment. I had nightmares of Frodo & Co. becoming so cutesy-poo, it would make me, as Dorothy Parker put it, frow up.

So I wrote to Professor Tolkien and offered to buy the film rights. I said I had no intention of making the books into a movie; I just wanted to prevent anyone else from doing it.

Back came two letters. The first, which I still have hanging on my wall, was from J.R.R. himself, addressed — in his

charming English way — to "Martin M. Snapp, esq."

"With regard to your proposition," he wrote, "I do not deal with matters of that kind myself. They are in the hands of my publishers: Messrs. Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 40 Museum Street, London, W.C. 1. I have forwarded your letter to them, and I expect you will hear from them in due course. With best wishes, Yours sincerely, J.R.R. Tolkien." (And, yes, he used that familiar Elvish calligraphy.)

And he was right; I did hear from Messrs. Allen & Unwin. Alas, I threw their letter away (and I've been kicking myself for it ever since). But I still remember what it said.

I was too late, they said. The movie rights had already been sold to Ralph Bakshi, the guy who drew "Fritz the Cat." Then they added a postscript that I will treasure forever.

"We appreciate your point," they said. "But you wouldn't want us to sacrifice financial remuneration for the sake of art, would you?"

E-mail Martin Snapp at catman@california.com or call him at 510-273-9039.

Volunteers

FROM PAGE 1

person is responsible for each day.

And for the last six years, rain or shine, week in and week out, he's never missed his turn. Ever. "He's so protective of them," marvels McCormick. "He's absolutely dependable because he cares about them so much."

Charley also has spoken up for them at the Berkeley City Council, whom he tried to convince last year to pass a spay-neuter ordinance. (It failed, but he'll be back again this year.)

He did have one misgiving about being interviewed for this story, namely, please don't get the idea that just because he and his cohorts are looking after some feral cats, it's safe to dump your own cat out in the wild. Even if it somehow survives — a long shot at best — the whole idea is to reduce the feral cat population, remember?

"It's the cruelest thing you could do," says Charley. "Your cat has learned to depend completely on you for food and protection. It would be like having a baby and leaving it in the road."

But what will happen to the cats five years from now, when Charley heads off to college? Not worry, he made too much noise and frightened the cats. But now that he's 9, he's as good as it is I am."

Christopher Haugh, 12, Kensington, and Ben Stolourow, 12, Berkeley

Move over, Damon and Affleck; make way for Haugh and Stolourow.

That's Chris Haugh of Kensington and Ben Stolourow of Berkeley, 12-year-old classmates at Prospect Sierra School in El

Cerrito, who are not only artists but producers who enjoy collaborating on projects.

Ben does sketches, watercolors and bronze castings; Chris does pencil drawings, watercolors and clay modelings. On Sept. 22 they got together to produce an art show of their own and other young artists' work that netted big bucks for UNICEF.

It all started last summer, when they were at summer camp at Slide Ranch. They were sitting around, trying to think of something fun to do, when one of them — they can't remember which — said, in the best Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland fashion, "I know! Why don't we put on an art show?"

"At first, we were going to split the proceeds three ways," says Chris. "A third for us, a third for the artist, and a third for some charity. But they more we thought about it, we decided, 'Why not just give the whole thing to charity?'"

Which they did. After researching several worthy causes, they settled on UNICEF. "We made all the arrangements before Sept. 11, and it was too late to change our minds," says Ben. "But I'm still happy with the choice we made. It's kids helping kids."

Then they took care of business. They rented Nexus Gallery on Solano Ave. for three days (one day for setup, one day for the show, and one day for clean-up). They put in a phone line, purchased office supplies, and printed up fliers soliciting donations from other artists.

Thus was born ArtStart, billed as "an art show run by, drawn, sculpted, and sculpted by kids." Artists between the ages of 9 and 15 were invited to submit their work, which would be sold at blind auction.

"Really, this was much too big a project for two 12-year-olds," says Ben's mom, "but they never gave up, despite all the obstacles they had to overcome." Obstacle No. 1: When they crunched the

numbers, they discovered that their overhead was going to be hundreds of dollars over budget.

Unfazed, they did more household chores, washed neighbors' cars, and set up a lemonade stand on the corner until they'd raised the money to cover it.

Obstacle No. 2: Young artists are no different from old ones; a large number of them simply can't bear to part with their own creations. Among them was Chris himself.

Solution: Donation jars were placed in front of their art work, so people could contribute money to the cause instead of buying.

The boys also got Half Price Books to contribute gift certificates of \$25, \$15 and \$10 to the artists whose works fetched the highest prices. Ironically, first place was won by Ben, but he declined to accept his prize and let all the runners-up move up a step, instead.

The show drew more than 150 people. Sixty-four pieces of art were sold, at prices ranging from \$5 to \$50. (One of the customers was Chris, who bought one of Ben's bronze sculptures that he'd admired for some time.) The net take for UNICEF: \$627.20.

So why was it such a success? "Well," says Chris, "a lot of the art was awfully good!"

Christina Jung, 17, El Cerrito

"Bad leaders lead through fear. Better leaders lead through love. But the best leaders of all are those who, after they have finished, the people say, 'We did it ourselves!'" — Sun Tzu

Tina Jung is a catalyst. Not content with doing good herself

— and she does plenty of that — her real talent is making it easier for others to do good, too.

"She's really blossomed into a leader," says her counselor at El Cerrito High School, Barbara Quein. "She's not a loud person. But she has a quiet way of making good things happen."

It started in sophomore year, when she joined her Leadership Class' Community Service Committee. No problem finding worthy causes in the community; the question was how to mobilize the school's greatest resource — its 700-plus students.

Their very numbers presented a problem: How to get the word out to 700 people on a consistent basis?

Solution: Try a little bit of everything. She and her friends made posters. They wrote daily announcements for broadcast over the school R.A. system. They went from homeroom to homeroom, buttonholing each teacher individually and enlisting him or her in the get-the-word-out effort.

Somehow, it worked. Participation in school charity drives skyrocketed. Last Christmas, for example, El Cerrito students collected more than 2,000 cans of food for the Richmond Rescue Mission. They've also "adopted" two middle schools in Richmond, and hold fund-raising drives to buy them school supplies.

They also hold an annual Christmas event at Children's Hospital called "Deck the Halls," which pretty much describes what they do — with lots of bunting, paper chains and teddy bears. They run clothing drives for the homeless, fund-raising drives for leukemia research, dis-

aster relief drives, a campus cleanup campaign, staff KQED Pledge Nights and attempt to breach the town/gown divide between students and the sometimes wary local community with the El Cerrito City Walk.

"If I can help one person, that's great," she says. "But if I can use my skills to help 10 people it's so much better. The best part is bringing other people with you."

Tina also teaches Sunday School at her church and is co-captain of the El Cerrito High volleyball team.

"Why are you writing about me?" she asks. "There are so many good people here. Why aren't you writing about my friend Nancy Tsai, who started a social service club called Interact? Or Mary Goss, who works with the Special Olympics? This job requires a lot of people, not one person."

That's the way the best leaders always talk.

Sam Bozek, 11, Albany

He isn't Batman, but Sam Bozek is a bat's best friend. He builds houses for the unfairly maligned little critters, complete with a bar underneath for them to hang from upside down. Then he and his friends, East Bay Regional Park rangers, hang the lit-

tle houses high up in trees in Tilden Park and wait for the bats to move in.

"We always try to place them near water," says Sam. "That's where bats like to be — over water."

That's only one of Sam's duties as a member of the Junior Rangers, a program of the East Bay Regional Park District. He also helps the rangers clear out dead trees and logs from Lake Anza. The big guys cut the logs into pieces, then Sam and the other Junior Rangers haul them to shore with ropes and pulleys. "It's like a tug-of-war," he says. "Us against Mother Nature."

In the process, they get covered with mud from head to toe. "That's how you can tell a First Year-er," he says, with a Second Year-er's thinly veiled contempt. "They look at the mud and say, 'Ew-w-w!' They're reluctant to get dirty. But we look at the mud and say, 'Ooooh! Mud! Let's go play in it!'"

Sam is a sixth-grader at Albany Middle School. He loves math, science and history, and he's taking a class in Japanese. He likes playing games on his computer, and he's a big hockey fan. His favorite team: the Montreal Canadiens.

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 10

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

Woeful highway tale

A NATIONAL STUDY of highway conditions by a Washington, D.C., organization ranks California dead last among the 50 states in road maintenance. The Road Information Project study looked at data for 2000 and found that 37 percent of California's 30,694 miles of major roads and highways needs resurfacing or reconstruction. Another 35 percent is deteriorating toward that condition.

Not only is California ranked last, it is a far way down the road from next to last, which is Louisiana, with 27 percent of its major roads in need of repair. The national average is 11 percent.

This conclusion should come as no surprise to anyone who has driven throughout California and in other states. Our roads and major highways not only are grossly inadequate, they are strangled with traffic and are dangerous.

How did what was once the nation's leading state in highway construction fall to such abysmal depths? We did it by dropping to last in the nation in spending per capita on our highways, not for just a few years, but for a quarter century.

There is no excuse for such an abandonment of the public interest. California certainly has had the resources to build and maintain its highways. It also has a relatively benign climate that does not tear up roads. States with far worse weather conditions and fewer financial resources do a far better job of maintaining their roads.

California adds more motorists to its population each year than any other state, yet it ranks last in committing financial resources to expanding and maintaining its highway system.

For years it has diverted its gasoline tax to the general fund, which is unconscionable. Proposition 42 on the March ballot will give voters an opportunity to change that. Prop. 42 will dedicate the gasoline tax money to transportation, with 20 percent of the funds going toward mass transit. But it won't take effect until 2008. That will help, but won't be nearly enough to make up for 25 years of neglect.

Gov. Gray Davis supports Prop. 42, yet he continues to approve budgets that divert the gas tax money to other purposes. Recent federal funding has allowed California to fund some long-standing highway projects that are a decade or two behind. But the highway situation in California today under Davis is worse than it has ever been in its history.

Caltrans spokesman Dennis Trujillo had the audacity to question the highway study and disputed the state's dead-last ranking, even though Caltrans has not compared California roads to those of other states.

Where has Trujillo been? Does he not realize how bad a condition California is in and that Caltrans itself shares the blame? If there is a more poorly run and less effective public agency in the nation than Caltrans, we have yet to learn of it.

Despite the huge backlog of highway projects, Caltrans and the Davis administration plan to spend at least \$3 billion on a new Bay Bridge without adequate understanding of how much it will ultimately cost or of alternatives to a new bridge. It would not be surprising if the new Bay Bridge cost in excess of \$5 billion by the time all the cost overruns are tallied.

One has to wonder how many lives will be lost because of dangerous highways that will not be repaired because of money being spent on a bridge that may not be needed or could be more efficiently designed?

California's grossly inadequate roads and highways not only are dangerous, they are fast becoming a deterrent to economic development and have long had a negative impact on the quality of life.

Davis should not wait for passage of Prop. 42 to divert gasoline tax money to transportation needs. The state needs to at least double its spending on highways and roads each and every year indefinitely. Even then we are not likely to reach the national average in road conditions. But at least the deterioration would slow down.

If the state continues to do such a poor job of building new highways and maintaining old ones, along with improving mass transit where it is economical, California's future will be significantly dimmer than it has been in the past.

In 1960 the average California family spent half as large a share of its income on state and local taxes than it does now. Yet at that time the state provided top-quality roads, schools and other public works. It surely can do better today.

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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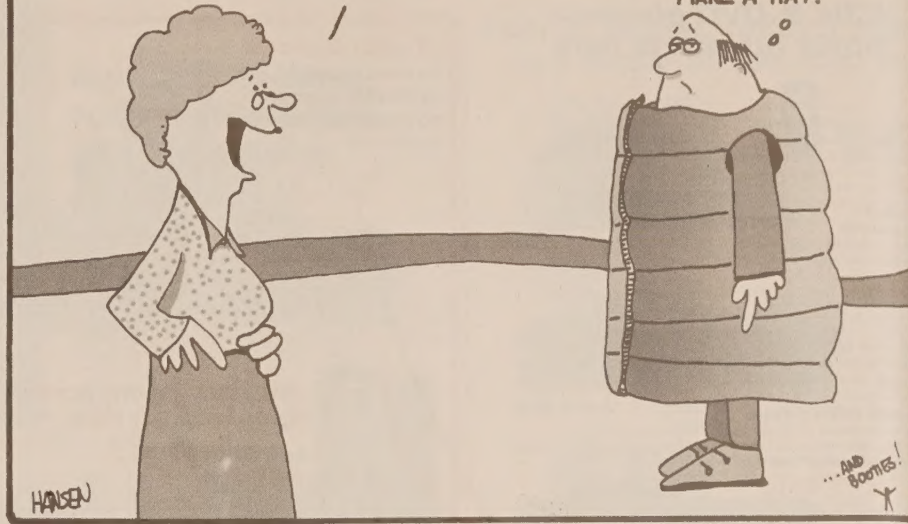
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WINTER BRINGS ON THOSE BIGGER HEATING BILLS

I MADE THAT COAT OUT OF AN OLD SLEEPING BAG.

PLEASE, SOMEBODY TELL ME THAT SHE DIDN'T MAKE A HAT.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rebuts article

I have just read the article by John Rolf Hattam in the Real Estate and Home section of the Journal and I would like to know: What is so bad about open space?

Hattam writes as if every time he drives down Key Route Boulevard he sees an eyesore.

I live on the block of Key Route Boulevard illustrated and I can assure you that Hattam is mistaken.

The median is not full of weeds and the beautiful tall trees across from my house are not deteriorating. Hattam makes the false assumption that people who live in 1,100-square-foot houses would not have children. Many families in Albany know that is simply not true.

The density he proposes is higher than what already exists and there would be additional parking problems due to the fact that the school has no parking facilities and the reality that few people actually use their garages for storing cars.

Certainly, I would hope that my neighborhood would protest such a proposal.

Fortunately, I understand from the city's planners that although they are under a state mandate to provide more housing in the city, they are looking at other more viable sites and would consider the median at Key Route Boulevard only at last resort.

However, the suggestion that the median could be built on should serve as a warning to all the neighbors on Key Route Boulevard.

If we value the open space, we cannot afford to take it for granted. Unfortunately, some people don't see grass and trees there, they see houses.

Owen Tan
Albany

Unkind to homeless

I recently reads a long article in the Times (Dec. 16) about the homeless being evicted near the Ashby Avenue off-ramp in Berkeley, near Emeryville.

Caltrans officials don't like being called the "bad guys." If that's so, maybe they should have at least given those homeless people an hour to get their belongings out of the area. That really is not too much to ask!

Caltrans should have gone to the Berkeley officials about the problem before anyone was evicted.

City officials should have been given the chance to help the evictees with at least food and other services.

And one more thing: We all need to create a solution to the homeless problem. These people are human beings, just like you and I.

I cannot imagine how Caltrans officials would take it if they were made homeless. I know they have jobs (and good ones, at that) but some homeless

do work but cannot afford housing.

Ruth Marsh
El Cerrito

Worth investigating

Well before Sept. 11, at least two flight-school instructors had warned the FBI that suspicious persons with inadequate flying experience came to them to learn to pilot the "big birds" used by American Airlines and United Airlines.

Add to this that the volume of sales of the stocks of those two airlines, on Sept. 10, was one-fourth greater than to be expected.

Although publicly promised an investigation, to date, we have had no explanation — a disturbing dereliction of which I was reminded by a listener call-in to National Public Radio.

I am reminded of how, when a good German smuggled onto our shores during World War II reported his sabotage mission to the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover's outfit ignored him so they would have sole credit for capturing the handful of saboteurs, for which Hoover was accorded a medal.

Only the terrorist pilots of Sept. 11 knew their's was a suicide mission.

May not someone in the FBI, through surveillance or acquaintance with one of the other terrorists, have had wind of a comparatively innocuous hijacking for Sept. 11 and used or sold the information, causing the suspicious airline stock sales?

We must pursue the money here and look for a tortuous trail back to the FBI. And the FBI should not be the investigator!

Judith Segard Hunt
Berkeley

Outrageous activity

The new BART president should immediately investigate who thought up the idea of having drug-sniffing dogs on BART. That is an outrage!

Such brainless wasted activity should be cut off at the neck.

If the airport customs cannot capture drug dealers at the airport, tough.

By now, most people know the drug war is a multi-billion dollar fiasco. Furthermore, no one ever dies from marijuana.

Enforcement of stupid anti-pot laws creates enormous disrespect for all law enforcement.

How could anyone respect a policeman who wants to put a person in a jail for a doobie.

Hard drugs kill 5,500 per year. Doctors kill 150,000 — about the same as alcohol.

Arthur B. Waugh
Berkeley

Possible hazard

I am troubled by the proliferation of

remote entry automotive devices which cause the car's horn to honk each time the doors are locked or unlocked.

I think the use of such devices is rude, insensitive and erodes our quality of life. I'll go further.

Over time, these devices introduce a new safety hazard: that people will come to ignore the sound of a honking horn. Car horns are designed to draw people's attention to a critical traffic situation ... up to and including the imminence of a collision.

To routinely use a car's horn as a "convenience" (for the owner to confirm that his or her door has been locked or unlocked) is to undermine its purpose.

John Shine
El Cerrito

Cheaper proposal

Although Shirley Dean's proposal would moderately enlarge the park and greatly improve the pedestrian connections across MLK between Allston Way and Center Street, it would do so at the expense of the other blocks along MLK and hundreds of other more economical urban design improvements.

With two travel lanes in each direction, high traffic volumes, and many unsignalized intersections, MLK is a formidable barrier for pedestrians and cyclists moving in an east-west direction through the city.

For a fraction of the cost of the mayor's proposal, the four-lane section of MLK from Berkeley Way to Ashby Avenue could be reduced to one travel lane in each direction, with a center turn lane in a landscaped median.

This would visually connect Ohlone Park, University Avenue, and Grove Park with Civic Center Park and accommodate class II bike lanes in each direction and on-street parking at Civic Center Park, just where the mayor wants it.

Such a lane configuration can improve traffic flows on streets with up to 20,000 average daily car trips by moving left turning vehicles out of through lanes (currently a problem on MLK) and by moderating conflicts caused by extreme differences in speed by forcing everyone to drive at the speed of the most prudent driver.

Reduced speeds would make crossing on foot safer and biking along MLK more appealing.

The landscaped median would improve the image of the street and turn it into an open space asset rather than an eyesore.

Berkeley should avoid highly engineered solutions when opportunities for inexpensive and common sense improvements to the public realm abound.

David Saxen
Berkeley

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THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Genser

FROM PAGE A2

He showed even then. A short time at UCLA was followed by transfer to UC Berkeley, where he lived in a co-op and cooked a summer camp. She earned a general elementary teaching credential, and started teaching kindergarten in Berkeley, then in Hayward, where she was a reading specialist, and opened a library for the district. Maberry stopped teaching after she married and the children came, and she "baby sat" for other people's kids. Wanting to earn more while still being at home for her two girls, she substituted in the Berkeley schools for four years. She was director for a preschool until it grew, requiring too many hours, so it was back to Berkeley as a full-time teacher.

It was when June Maberry took a class at Lawrence Hall of Science that her life changed. There was a class for teachers taught by David Stone Rod. He would make cast-offs and make teaching materials from them. At the time June was teaching at Cragmont School. Her classroom was broken into and everything was taken. With that she learned at the class she was able to make something out of nothing, and go on teaching her class.

June became so enamored of the concept that she wrote a grant, with the assistance of Larry Lowry, to start a resource center for teachers, using cast-offs and odd bits of materials.

Together she wrote six grants, three of which were funded. Two of them, she says, proudly, are still going, one in Fairland. One of the grants that was funded was for a resource center with the West County Children's Center in Richmond. The grant lasted for three years. One year Congress did not fund it, so she and her fellow workers helped to raise the money to keep it going. It was during this time that I discovered her resource center, and enjoyed bringing her all the kids and ends one gathers and takes to throw away. It was a joy to see what she and her staff could do with them, offering help and suggestions to teachers who came in for supplies for their own classes. She was asked to teach at Contra Costa College, which she did for 17 years.

June's daughters, Ruthie and Jean, were 1 and 2½ years old when June was divorced. She remarried some time later. One point she took two sisters into her home. She was teaching in a pre-headstart program, and got friendly with a family. Two years later the family took the children away from their parents. When June took them into her home they were very needy and traumatized. One of the girls was beyond any help June could give, and was sent to another family. But Michelle remained with her.

Daughters Ruthie and Jean are delighted and helped her with the child. Michelle had a boy at 15, at which time June

took into her home not only Michelle and the baby, Damion, but also the father, Damion, Sr. Although they no longer live with her, and no longer live together, they have remained her family and little Damion, a handsome, bright child, is the grandson she adores.

June's efforts to help both parents be responsible, loving parents has resulted in Michelle becoming a single working mother, and Damion, Sr. a responsible, active father.

With her devotion to the little family so great, June Maberry, who had retired from teaching, took a job with the Department of Public Health as a file clerk to provide the extra money she needed to help them.

With one daughter married to a South African, and living so far away, and separated from the other daughter by circumstances, June helps financially, baby-sits regularly and enjoys the love of mother and child.

As noted in the beginning, she does everything with her whole heart, and although she speaks wistfully of retirement, there is no question of that until they no longer need her financial support. Meanwhile, she continues to have a full life despite her asthma and the added pain of arthritis. One of her passions is finding natural remedies for her ailments, and says she is not crippled by her arthritis only because she has found such natural help. And she enjoys her family and friends, her work and her life. With all her heart.

I have known June for many years, after singing in a choir she accompanied, and visiting her resource center often. As you can tell, I admire her dedication and verve. Please give me your interesting people. We all know there are so many. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crggenser@aol.com.



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Volunteers

FROM PAGE 3

And he has three requests for all of us, on behalf of the all the creatures in the East Bay Regional Parks, whom he's come to know and love:

1. Stop tossing beer and soda cans out the window when you drive through the park. It's Sam and his friends who have to pick them up.
2. Stop taking small critters out of the park. "Kids and parents catch rare species and don't even know it," says Sam. "The California newt, for example, is almost extinct as a result."
3. Stop going off the trails. "You can't see it, but smaller trees are growing in the underbrush," he says. "When you walk on it, you'll crush them. Also, small animals make their homes in the underbrush. They'll collapse under your weight."

Indar Smith, 12, Oakland

Mark your political calendars for 2024. That's the year Indar Smith will be old enough to run for President. He's a campaign manager's dream: brains, charm, and an infectious grin that hasn't been seen since the days of Ike.

Right now, he has to settle for being president of the eighth Grade at Monteria Junior High in Oakland. But he doesn't give a hoot for the trappings of office. What interests him is what he can do with it.

"It was pretty much a pro forma job before Indar," says Assistant Principal Joe Salamack. "He changed all that. He made student government into a positive force for good."

Most notably, he revitalized a moribund student government to mobilize an apathetic student body into raising more than 5,000 pounds of food for the Alameda County Blood Bank.

"His most difficult task was to convince people that they really could make a difference," says Salamack. "He sat down with each member of the student council and showed them that the goal could be accomplished if each one took responsibility for getting their own homerooms involved."

Almost as difficult was firing up the faculty's enthusiasm, so they'd give the project more than lip service. "He went around and talked with each one of them, too," says Salamack. "If you've ever seen that smile of his, you'd realize that it's awfully hard to say no to him."

Indar also wrote fliers and announcements to be read over the school's P.A. system. "He'd stay up late at night, thinking up new ways to get people interested," says his mom. "We made him do his homework first, of course."

"I didn't really do much," Indar says modestly. "The student council did all the work."

"That attitude," says Salamack, "is exactly what makes him so successful."

He's also run two half-marathons, studies classical piano, and plays the tuba in the school band. (When he first started, it was bigger than he was.) He tutors other students in academics, and his dad — gerontologist Dr. Rick Smith — whenever dad is having trouble figuring out how to make his computer work. He's a real cyber wiz, equally adept in both Mac and PC platforms.

In fact, the only thing standing between him and the White House is his consuming interest in science. Right now he's torn between being a doctor or an engineer, but a scientific career is definitely in the offing. "That's not going to leave much time for politics," says his dad.

But whatever path he chooses, one thing is sure: Before he's done, Indar Smith will, as the saying goes, "leave the land a little better than he found it."

Blotter

FROM PAGE 2

tified people were discovered in a storage room trying to steal supplies. The suspects were chased off and no loss was reported.

■ On the morning of Dec. 6 a man living in the 1500 block of Norvell Street reported that two youngsters had thrown eggs at the front of his house. The problem was reported to be "on-going" and an estimated \$200 in paint damage was caused by the eggs.

From the period of Dec. 8 through last week the police log has 22 reports of drivers being arrested for DUI, or driving under the influence. The offense usually involved alcohol, but one report listed the abused substance as drugs. The DUI reports include a

9:04 p.m. Dec. 14 incident in which a 53-year-old San Pablo man was stopped for a red light violation near the intersection of San Pablo and Waldo avenues and subsequently found to be DUI. Another man, a 26-year-old Richmond resident, was stopped Dec. 10 just before 2 a.m. for speeding in his Mercury and was found to be intoxicated. Another man, a 37-year-old resident of Houston, Texas, driving a Ford pickup, was arrested for DUI during the investigation of a traffic collision at Schmidt Lane and Liberty Street at 6:20 p.m. Dec. 9. For Dec. 21-28, the weekly report states six vehicles were reported as stolen and seven vehicles that had been stolen earlier were recovered. In three of the recovered vehicle cases, police stopped the vehicles while being driven in the city and arrested the occupants.

IN BRIEF

El Cerrito

City seeks views about recycling

Through a survey mailed out in late December, the city is soliciting residents' opinions about possible changes in its recycling program.

A task force of residents and a team of consultants have been studying several options for change that could affect both curbside collection and the drop-off center, which has been in operation in 1972. No changes have been agreed upon yet.

El Cerrito has also not reached the state-mandated goal of reducing by 50 percent trash that goes to the landfill.

The goal can be reached through increased recycling but, city officials say, the aging recycling center needs to be rebuilt.

The goal, say city officials, is to increase recycling and continue to provide convenient and cost-effective service for residents.

First, though, the city wants to hear from residents. The survey asks several questions regarding recycling and also asks

for comments. Residents do not have to include name or address. The survey is returnable via business reply mail.

For more information call 510-215-4302.

Contra Costa County

Hazardous materials commission spot open

Contra Costa County's Hazardous Materials Commission is seeking applicants to fill an alternate position to the General Public Seat.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Jan. 11.

Applicants must live or work in the county. They must commit to regular attendance at monthly commission meetings and a monthly committee meeting.

The commission was established in 1986. Its members develop overall policy recommendations for hazardous materials and wastes.

Forms are available by writing to the Hazardous Materials Commission, 20 Allen St., Martinez, CA 94553, or by calling Michael Kent at 925-370-5020.

Oakland

Jan. 31 deadline for children's card art

Children's Hospital Oakland is soliciting children's art to be considered for next year's holiday card collection.

Artworks depicting winter and the winter holidays, including Ramadan, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, may be submitted. The deadline for entries is Jan. 31.

Winners will be notified in March. Prizes will be awarded in autumn 2002.

Works should be submitted in pastels, paints, collage, markers, fabric or clay. Pencil and crayon pieces are discouraged because they are too difficult to reproduce.

Funds raised through the annual sale of the cards help provide charity care and activities such as the Hospital School Program.

Mail completed works to Children's Hospital Foundation, Holiday Art Competition, 747 52nd St., Oakland, CA 94609.

For rules or other information, visit www.kidsholidaycards.org

Flood

FROM PAGE 1

Glenna, have sandbagged, set up a sump pump to drain water from their foundation and dug a ditch through the middle of their back patio to divert water from the walls.

The damaged drain is partially excavated, and water is still gushing out. With 24-hour-a-day vigilance, Seely has managed to keep most of it from direct contact with his house, but in heavy downpours this is nearly impossible, he said.

The headache of emergency flood prevention is one thing, but Seely is facing another headache — finding and funding a long-term solution.

"Everybody listens to you, but

nobody does anything," he said.

Even though Kensington is unincorporated, the county doesn't have jurisdiction, Matsumoto said. Public funds can't be used for private projects. "We don't have an easement; we don't have a right-of-way. It's considered a private drainage system."

However, the county is responsible for sections of drain under roadways in unincorporated areas. Workers have found some rust and debris in the broken drain under a couple of streets near Seely's house.

Although not the cause of the problem, the evidence indicates the condition of many drains from the era. "Apparently it's reaching its useful life; it's rusting out on the bottom," Matsumoto said.

The hills are filled with them,

he said.

Hilly areas around the Bay, including in Kensington, are filled with natural watersheds, small and large, carrying water down from higher ground.

In the warm season, these ravines and creek beds usually run dry or carry scant amounts of run-off. But in rainy weather, they pour.

Developers and builders typically put culverts and drains in natural watersheds. Today, such construction is regulated, mapped and disclosed to property owners.

But years ago, this wasn't the case, Matsumoto said. "We have no records as to the exact location of these pipes."

While Seely's situation is one of the worst he's seen, Matsumoto knows of other Kensing-

Streetscape

FROM PAGE 1

somewhere?" he asked. "Do you want distinctive tree grates, do you want banners on the flag poles, do you want street furniture?"

The people have already pressed some idea of what they want, said Tom Ford, of the Community & Environment firm the city has retained to develop the streetscape plan.

"Ideas were expressed at the general plan update process that they wanted things to be pedestrian-oriented," he said.

The city sent notices about the general plan update process to more than 1,270 residents and business owners in the area. Carrington said, Community & Environment will develop "alternative concepts and a vision plan" for the city, which will go before the Planning Commission and the Design Review Board before eventually being considered by the City Council. He said the process should take about three or four months.

The public workshop on the Fairmont Avenue streetscape master plan is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the community center, 7001 Mooser Lane. Call 510-215- for more information.

ton homes where burst pipes have flooded yards. "Unfortunately, they're all failing at the same time."

Many of Seely's neighbors took out flood insurance, witnessing his disaster area.

While that is one reason Matsumoto said neighbors also form an assessment district and tax themselves for storm drain replacement and maintenance.

These ideas come too late for Seely, who has hired an attorney.

"It's got to be some fault besides mine," Seely said. "I didn't put any water in the pipe."

Reach Kate Darby Rauch at 510-262-2749 or krauch@cctimes.com.


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The Journal wants to hear from its readers. All letters must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Journal or its staff members.

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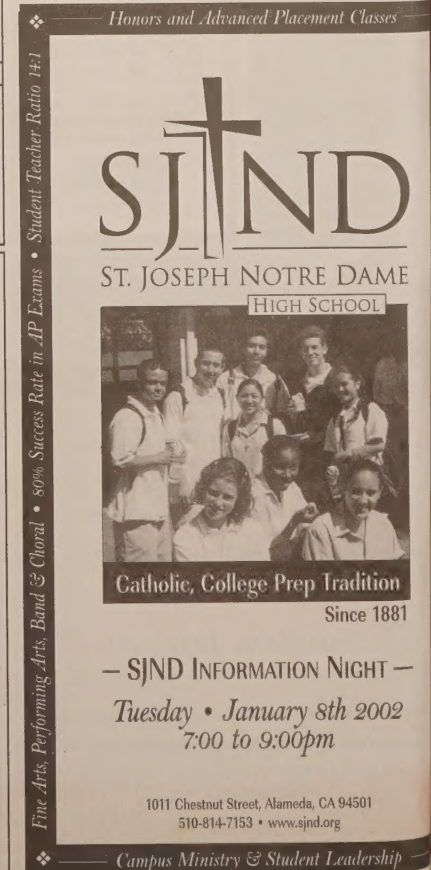
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Friday, January 4, 2002

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B6]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

A look at some effective negotiation strategies

In a softening market buyers are in position to negotiate, patience is key

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

First of a two-part series.
After years of putting up with seller's demands, buyers are now in a position to negotiate. The real estate market is softening and sellers no longer call all the shots.

Granted, some listings will still attract multiple offers. However, in most cases, buyers will be able to negotiate a home purchase rather than purchasing on the nonnegotiable terms dictated by the seller, as was often the case a year ago.

This is not to say that all buyers will be successful in their home purchase negotiations. Transitional markets, such as we are experiencing now, are tricky. Prices are in flux, the inventories of homes for sale is expanding, and sellers are sometimes the last to recognize that the market has changed.

Patience is an important element in negotiating a home purchase in today's market. Some sellers have unrealistic expectations about the current market value of their homes. Their list price may be based on comparable sales information. But, those sales may be out of date in terms of current market value, even though the sales occurred are only a few months ago.

Incredulous sellers may need to get the market before they'll be willing to negotiate at a realistic price level. Don't rush the negotiations if you make an offer on a listing that's overpriced for the market. Start by offering a price that's below the top price you're willing to pay. You and the seller may have to counteroffer back and forth several times before you reach a mutually acceptable



DIAN HYMER
Starting Out

Some sellers have unrealistic expectations about the current market value of their homes. They base their price on comparable sales. But, those sales may be out of date in terms of current market value.

price. If you start the negotiations with your best price and the seller doesn't accept it, the dialogue could stop there. Leave yourself some room to move up in price.

Some sellers will outright reject a low offer if it's presented soon after the listing hits the market. If you make a low offer that's rejected, let some time pass and then make another offer. With this approach, you risk losing the home to another buyer who's willing to pay more. But, it's better to lose out on an over-priced listing than pay more than you think a property's worth in a soft market.

First-Time Tip: Here are a few negotiation techniques that have worked effectively for buyers in the

See HYMER, Page B12

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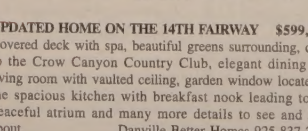
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Farewell, Mr. Albany



JEROME BLANK, AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS "MR. ALBANY" lost his battle with cancer Dec 20. Born and raised in Albany, Blank was a longtime Realtor and a prominent real estate developer. A "Living Legend" in the 2000 Solano Stroll, he served his community throughout his life: World War II veteran, Albany Mayor (three terms), Albany City Council (10 years), Past President-Life Director of both the Berkeley and California Associations of Realtors, Director of the National Association of Realtors, Past President of both the Albany Rotary and the Albany Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Wreaths and flowers decorate the town clock, dedicated in his honor, on Solano at Kains; it reads: "Jerome Blank-Mr. Albany."

— Karen Ward

A look at how adjustables work

So you watched Fed Chair man Alan Greenspan cut the short-term rates. You listened to the analysts who all agreed that this should be the best time for the lowest fixed interest rates in years. You decided to purchase a new home with this in mind or decided the time was right to refinance.

But mortgage interest rates did not go down. (OK, for about a week in October we visited the lowest rates in 40 years, but the system was so jammed that you missed your window of opportunity). Your loan has been pre-approved at your desired rate, but the rate is just not there, at least not at what you want to pay for it.

So, what do you do? Perhaps a low-cost or no-cost Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM) would fit your needs for now and set you up to refinance again when the analysts predictions of very low fixed interest rates come true sometime in the future. But what kind of ARM should you look at?



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

Know the basics

First you need to know the basic elements of an ARM. Every ARM is based on an index, a margin, a start rate, a life cap, an adjustment cap and a period of adjustment. The index is what the interest rate is based on.

The following are the most common indices.

The 11th District Cost of Funds Index (COFI) is the average costs of deposits and borrowings for savings institutions in the Federal Home Loan Bank's 11th district consisting of the states of California, Arizona and Nevada. It is a 12-month weighted average and therefore

moves very slowly. Many people in the industry believe that the index peaked at 5.68 percent in February 2001, and is heading down.

The December 2001 index has dropped to 3.628 percent. The index changes monthly. When you

See SENZIG, Page B4

Is it time to take a second look at community property with survivorship

COLDWELL BANKER NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

If you're married and own property, you can take advantage of a new law that can save you money in a time of need.

The Community Property with Right of Survivorship law, which took effect July 1, is a new form of a holding title, redefining the process of real and personal property acquisition by a surviving spouse upon the other's death. This latest holding title is an agreeable blend of Community Property and Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship laws, combining the advantages of both.

If you currently own real or personal property and hold title as Community Property or Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship, you can now transfer your holding title over to this new form. This transfer, however, will not create a change in ownership of the property and a Preliminary Change form in Ownership Report must be filed.

Choosing or changing your form of holding title is a large decision to make, hence, it is always recommended that you consult a legal or tax professional. But it is safe to say that most couples will benefit greatly from this new ownership option.

What are the benefits? If married couples change their holding title to Community Property with Right of Survivorship, they are reaping the tax benefits of community property law through double the stepped-up basis that you would receive from a Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship title.

Now what does that mean? "Stepped-up basis" is a procedure where the investment in the property is calculated against the value to determine what you owe in capital gain taxes when selling the



STAN MUNGER

home entirely. The value of the home has increased with the value of the property being sold, that amount also becomes taxable basis.

Thus, if they sell the home, they are taxed on the gain, meaning whatever amount they bring in excess of \$100,000.

Now, suppose Dave dies shortly after their appraisal, the home still holds value at \$500,000. If Dave and Nancy held title as tenants, the law would give a "step-up" in the tax basis to her portion of the original investment (basis), plus half the value of the home at time of death.

Let's do the math: \$500,000 of investment (basis) plus 25% half of value equals \$300,000. Nancy's "stepped-up basis" is \$300,000.

So if Nancy sells the property for \$500,000, she will pay capital gains taxes on the difference between the stepped-up basis (\$300,000) and the selling price, thus \$200,000.

If Dave and Nancy held title as tenants, when Dave passed, Nancy would receive complete step-up in the tax on their home.

Nancy's stepped-up basis becomes the full market value of the property at the time of Dave's death, thus \$500,000.

Nancy is still taxed on the difference between her stepped-up basis and the selling price of the home, but if Nancy sells the property for its fair market value of \$500,000, she realizes a capital gain of zero!

See MUNGER, Page B4

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Do cabinet repairs leave you unhinged?

We are adamant about quality, and that includes cabinetry. Nothing bothers us more than second-rate cabinet displays in home centers. They look good from a distance, and some even look pretty good up close. But most of what you'll find are poorly constructed products with mediocre finishes, made with inferior raw materials. The unwary consumer is fooled by their cutesy designs and slick looks — all sizzle and no steak.

Good cabinets can last for generations, and that makes them a bargain. The best value usually is measured by weighing both cost and lifespan. In as little as a year, junky cabinets often begin to fall apart.

Why all the discussion about quality? We want to share with you how easy it is to repair a cabinet door and how to diagnose and repair a couple of other common problems. We should begin with a warning because the cabinets that need these kinds of repairs the most are the ones that are most difficult, and sometimes impossible, to repair. In fact, when trying to make a repair on a bargain-basement cabinet, there is a risk of doing more damage than good.

Diagnosis usually is not as complex as you might think. In most cases what's wrong is fairly obvious. How hard can it be to diagnose a loose hinge or a missing screw? But there can be challenges. For example: It can be difficult to determine exactly where a door is rubbing or sticking. In such

situations we turn to our special diagnostic tools and equipment. We head for the pantry or the medicine cabinet for a little flour or talcum powder or a stick of good old-fashioned writing chalk. Here's why. Talc, flour or chalk on a door edge will be rubbed off in the area where a door is sticking. Here's what to do:

■ Apply the powder to the damaged area.

■ Open and close the door a few times (the powder will be rubbed off in the exact area where the door is rubbing the frame).

■ Use a sanding machine or a plane to shave high spot away.

You can shave either the door or the frame, depending upon which will be least visible. All that's left once the door fits again is to touch up with stain and varnish or paint. You don't want to make a repair and not reveal the repair area. Unfinished wood is a major candidate for moisture damage and swelling.

A loose hinge usually means a loose screw — sometimes a damaged hinge. If the screws are all tight and the hinge is wobbly, chances are you will have to replace the hinge — a rare problem. Usually it's a loose screw. First, try retightening the hinge screws. Often, especially with good quality cabinetry, that's all you'll have to do. If any screws are stripped, the task becomes more difficult, but not impossible. Here's what to do:

■ First, remove the hinge (at least the side where the screws are loose).

■ Next, dip toothpicks in glue and wedge as many as you can in each stripped hole.

■ When the glue dries, use a razor knife to cut off the excess toothpicks.

■ Flop the hinge back into place and reinstall the screws. It is important to wait until the glue is completely dry. Reinstalling the screws before it dries can make things worse than they were before you started.

Often doors warp and swell or shrink. This changes how they fit in an opening. A gap at the perimeter of the door can result. Here are a couple of conditions and a couple of ways to make a repair.

When a gap occurs along the top of the door (opposite the hinge side) you can shim the bottom hinge, or countersink the top hinge. If a gap occurs at the bottom edge of the door (opposite the hinge side) you can shim the top hinge, or countersink the bottom hinge.

To shim a hinge, loosen the screws that hold it in place and insert a shim (matchbook cover or a thin piece of cardboard or plastic) between the hinge and cabinet frame, and retighten the screws. It doesn't take much.

To countersink a hinge, remove the hinge from the frame (normally you don't have to remove the entire door), and chisel away a slight bit of wood from the area beneath the hinge. Then, refasten the hinge. Use a sharp chisel to remove only a very thin layer of wood. As with shimming, a very small amount goes a long way.



MORRIS & JAMES CAREY
On the House

Good cabinets can last for generations, and that makes them a bargain. The best value usually is measured by weighing both cost and lifespan. In as little as a year, junky cabinets often begin to fall apart.

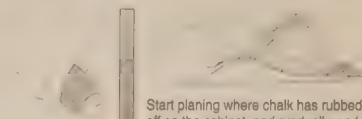
TRICK: Often applying a slight amount of pressure to the opposite side of the door will close a gap sufficiently. This takes a gentle hand and only works with certain types of hinges.

Using force can unhinge a door, so be gentle. Shaving, shimming and countersinking always work, even when you are less than gentle.

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey air Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020-1666, or e-mail to carey-bro@onthehouse.com.

Diagnosing cabinet door problems

Find out where the door sticks by coating the edge with powdered chalk.

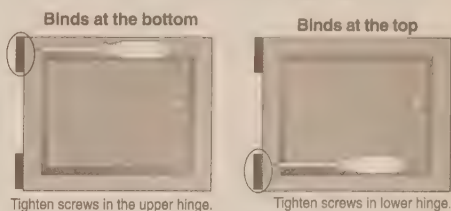


Start planing where chalk has rubbed off on the cabinet, and gradually work away from the high spot



When screws work loose, the door starts to bind

If screw holes are stripped, replace screws with longer ones



Tighten screws in the upper hinge.

Tighten screws in lower hinge.

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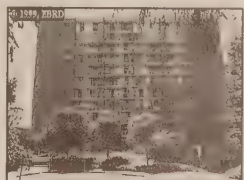
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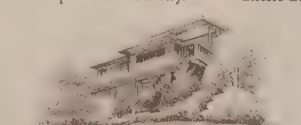


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FROM PAGE B4

figure that the average margin (added to the index) is about 2.75 percent for a fully indexed rate of 6.378 percent (and this is for jumbo loans as well).

Clearly, it is easy to understand why the COFI has actually outperformed fixed rates eight out of the last 10 years.

The Monthly Treasury Average (MTA) is also a 12-month weighted average based on the one-month United States Treasury security adjusted to a constant maturity of one year. Also a slow moving index, as of December 2001 it is 4.088 percent. The index changes monthly.

The Constant Maturity Average (CMT) index is the weekly average yield on United States Treasury securities adjusted to a constant maturity of one year. December 2001

Index averaged 2.210 percent.

The London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is the average of lending rates from a number of major banks based in London, England. LIBOR is commonly used as an international interest rate index. Considered by many in the industry as more volatile and market sensitive than the previous indices.

The 6 month LIBOR index in December 2001 averaged 1.698 percent and the one year LIBOR averaged 2.280 percent.

How it all works

The only thing fixed about an adjustable-rate mortgage is the margin. Think about it as the lender's profit margin. The margin is added to the index to give you the fully indexed note rate. So, if you have chosen the COFI index that is at 3.628 percent and the lender's margin is 2.50 percent, the fully indexed note rate for December 2001 would

be 6.125 percent. Margins can be bought down by paying points (pre-paid interest) just like fixed rates.

The start rate is an initial lower than the fully indexed rate for either a teaser of one or three months, incurring negative amortization thereafter, or set for periods of 6 months, one year, three years, five years, seven years or 10 years.

The life cap is the maximum the fully indexed interest rate may increase. The life cap can be a set rate, as is common with a COFI and MTA loan, usually capping at 10.95 or 11.95 percent or as a formula such as the start rate plus 5 or 6 percent. A good example is the 3/1, which is fixed for three years at 5.875 percent and then automatically slides into a one-year T-Bill (similar to the CMT).

At the period of adjustment (in this case at the 37th month), a margin of 2.75 would be added to the index at that time to set the borrower's fully indexed note rate. The adjustment cap of two percent over the start rate protects the borrower from huge interest rate swings if the index moves out of control during the short-term fixed rate period.

A look at the products

There are as many ARM loan products as there are mortgage lenders who all have their own variations on the same theme, however, there are essentially two types of structure.

There is the short term fixed rate, as in the example above that fully amortizes the loan. Amortization is where all of the interest and a portion of the principal are paid with each payment.

Then, there is the Option ARM. The Option ARM, favored by the big Savings & Loan institutions, gives the borrower three or four monthly payment options. After the initial one or three month low teaser rate (lately as low as 2.75 percent), the borrower's monthly payment statement offers the following choices:

■ Less than interest only. This payment option is based on the initial low teaser rate, which is fixed for 12 months. The difference between the 3.5 percent payment and the fully indexed rate, interest only payment is called deferred interest and added to the principal. That is why it is called negative amortization, since you are adding to the

principal balance instead of subtracting from it. The minimum payment increases by 7.5 percent (the payment, not the interest) every twelve months.

■ Interest Only. This option allows the borrower to avoid deferred interest but still enjoy a lower payment than the fully amortized payment.

■ Full Interest and Principal Payment. Decrease your principal and pay all current interest due with this payment so you can pay off your loan by the end of its original term.

■ 15-Year Payment. Build the equity in your home, pay off your mortgage faster, and save lots of money in interest by using this option.

Now that you are armed with the basics on ARMs, the Adjustable Rate Mortgage may be the answer for you while waiting for long-term fixed-rates to come down.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 339-8511, fax: 339-3814, e-mail at ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

Muncer

FROM PAGE B2

From a tax perspective, the effect of this new law is clear. Tax-exempt laws don't come around often and don't always apply to everyone, so make sure you take advantage of this new form of title that is only available in a few states, our home state of California being one of them. If you and your spouse are considering this new form of ownership, please seek guidance from a tax professional with real estate expertise to ensure it is the best decision for your situation.

Stan Muncer, Manager of well known Northern California Walnut Creek office, provides above tips. As a real estate professional, Stan oversees a talented team of over 60 real estate professionals in the Walnut Creek area. His office is located at 1801 N. California and can be reached at 925-7100. Stan can be reached by email at smuncer@cbnrcal.com.

Rates essentially unchanged

■ Feelings that the economy may be ready to start recovery kept rates flat

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.16 percent, with an average cost of 0.8 point (1 point equals 1 percent of the loan amount), for the week ending Dec. 28, nearly unchanged from 7.17 percent last week. A year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage average was 7.13 percent.

The average for the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage this week is 6.65 percent, with an average cost of 0.7 point, unchanged from last week. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.79 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 5.25 percent this week, with an average cost of 0.8 point, down slightly from last week's average of 5.27 percent. This time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 6.93 percent.

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<p>McClair</p> <p>New Construction! \$1,995,000 Beautiful home with wonderful views. Approx. 5200 sq. ft., 4 large bedrooms, 4 full baths & 2 1/2 baths. Gourmet kitchen w/top-of-the-line appliances, hardwood floors, bonus room. Very open and light. You must see this home!</p> <p>Bonnie Freitas (925) 997-9062</p>	<p>Danville</p> <p>Magnificent New Custom! \$1,699,000 At the foot of Mt. Diablo! Stunning views & state of the art craftsmanship. Maple hardwood floors w/cherry inlay. Elegant crown molding, slab marble & granite counters.</p> <p>Jerry & Gabriela (925) 314-1500</p>	<p>Piedmont Pines</p> <p>Contemporary Craftsman \$1,198,000 Magnificent 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath Piedmont Pines new construction. Unique floor plan provides exceptional space. Luxury appointments and dramatic colors by Claudia. Tree framed Bay view of San Francisco.</p> <p>Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>New Piedmont Pines \$998,000 State of the art 5 bedroom/4.5 bath new construction. Unique design & colors accent the panoramic Bay view. Separate quarters for au-pair, in-law or home office.</p> <p>Christian Downer (510) 339-8900 x259</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>Views From Every Room! \$799,000 Enjoy a very private setting in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home. Master suite w/private deck, hardwood floors, spa, on a 1/2 acre at the end of a cul-de-sac, & perfect for outdoor entertaining.</p> <p>Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360</p>
<p>Orinda</p> <p>Finish & Profit! \$769,500 Five bedroom, four bath home w/3000 sq. ft. of living space on a private .45 acre lot. Featuring hardwood floors, lovely granite kitchen, and an excellent wooded location.</p> <p>Janice Dalton (925) 838-1260</p>	<p>Alameda</p> <p>Two Cottages on One Lot! \$449,000 Enjoy two adorable cottages on one lot. Each one bedroom & one bath. Level yard perfect for garden/play. Excellent location!</p> <p>Peter Fletcher (510) 521-1177</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>Resort Style Living! \$394,500 Come prepared 2 buy & throw out the comps. Not often 4 sale, rare avail. 2 bedroom/2 bath unique condo. Over looking a main pool, creek, lake, & country club. 5+ Star Panoramic View!</p> <p>Franco M. Ismen (925) 314-1522</p>	<p>Lake Merritt</p> <p>Lakeside Condo \$265,000 Quiet end-unit 2 bedroom/2 bath condo. Spacious floor plan with large patio and a peek of the Lake. Convenient location close to two BART stations, downtown and China town. Secure, well-maintained building.</p> <p>Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230</p>	<p>San Jose</p> <p>New Listing! \$229,000 Enjoy sunset walks along SF Bayfront. Executive 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in Watergate. Totally upgraded & club amenities! Short commute to SF/Oakland.</p> <p>E'lynn Allen (925) 778-9101</p>
<p>Berkeley</p> <p>Edwardian Triple! \$675,000 Berkeley new listing. Gorgeous owner's unit with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, coved ceilings, Wainscoting & finished hardwood floors.</p> <p>Mary Hanna 510-339-8900 ext. 253</p>	<p>Alameda</p> <p>Open Sun. 2-4:30pm New "Showcase" Listing \$319,500 1st time in 18 yrs! 2-story thse-type, built-as-condo unit. 2-car pkg! In-unit laundry, wet-bar, fireplace, pavers, decorator perfect. Only 15 units, shopping & transportation. Stable & mature owners. Quiet & serene. D.C. Hodges (510) 531-7667</p>	<p>Alamo</p> <p>Gem in Stonegate! \$987,000 This architectural masterpiece provides a wonderful quality of life! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3,675 square feet, gorgeous view, 3 fireplaces, hardwood floors, 3 car garage, master suite w/two huge closets and French doors. Kazie Afari (925) 975-4363</p>	<p>Blackhawk</p> <p>Exquisite Townhouse! \$619,500 Located in exclusive Blackhawk Country Club w/3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, remodeled gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage, & a large private yard w/custom deck. Janice Dalton (925) 838-1260</p>	<p>Orinda</p> <p>Just Reduced! \$799,000 A very large home with 3,400 square feet, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Very private .91 acre lot. Can be reconfigured to suit. Enjoy views! Conni Goldene 925-975-4316</p>
<p>Lafayette</p> <p>Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! \$1,299,000 Enjoy this special Estate w/Contemporary design. Featuring 5 bedrooms including a dramatic master suite w/fireplace, and sauna, 3.5 baths, spacious entry and an atrium, and a floor plan perfect for entertaining. Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360</p>	<p>Pleasant Hill</p> <p>Renovated, Like New! \$314,500 Beautifully remodeled throughout with central air and heat, Pergo flooring, brand new dual pane windows, large backyard, very motivated seller. Don't miss this one! Sheila Keihani (925) 975-4344</p>	<p>Walnut Creek</p> <p>Gorgeous Througout! \$520,000 Architectural Digest type decor. Stainless steel countertops, Subzero refrigerator & hardwood floor in kitchen. Large corner lot w/great backyard. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Diane Britto (925) 975-4331</p>		



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3249 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, (925) 935-9100
185 Railroad Avenue, Danville, (925) 314-1500
1983 Second Street, Livermore (925) 455-0505
Visit us at: www.heritage realestate.com

A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Do It Yourself: Free Lectures
The Building Education Center on Page Street, in Berkeley is offering two free lectures for the Do It Yourselfer. The first lecture is "What You Need to Know before You Build or Remodel", by builder Glen Kitzberger.

There are two opportunities for the Kitzberger lecture on Jan. 19 and 21. The second lecture "Choosing to Add On: Pros and Cons of Building an Addition" is on Jan. 19. The presenter is author/designer Skip Wenz. For more information call 510-525-7610.

Learn To Improve
The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends.

"Architectural Sketching" is a hands-on workshop taught by architect-author Jon Larson on Sunday, Jan. 13. Join the "Electrical Wiring" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13. For more information on classes and costs call the center. Contact Sydney at 510-525-7610 or visit the website at www.becduc.org.

Homeownership Help Available in Hayward

Down payment and closing cost assistance is offered through the City of Hayward to first time homebuyers. "There are still affordable homes in Hayward," commented Home Ownership Coordinator Sam Thompson.

Buyers are required to purchase in Hayward and attend a Homeownership Class. Classes are on a monthly basis, as long as funds are available. To find out more about classes and other requirements call 510-583-4244.

McCormack's Guides
McCormack's Guides are still available. These relocation/newcomer guide books are more than a directory. The books are loaded with information such as academic rankings for local

public schools. SAT scores for local high schools, city profiles and directories of hospitals and private schools. Want to know where to go and what to do? It's in the Guide.

Buy 10 or more for a savings of over 50 percent. For costs and order information call 800-222-3602.

REALTOR.com
If you are interested in buying or selling real estate research reports confirm that REALTOR.com remains the number one website choice of consumers. "REALTOR.com is the most useful place to visit for people with an interest in real estate," said National Association of Realtors President Richard A. Mendenhall.

The site receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at REALTOR.com.

OAR AND ORAL LEE SAY THANKS

The Oakland Association of Realtors wanted to do something to help support the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarship funds for Oakland high school students. A committee, chaired by Evelyn Walker of Coldwell Banker was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute.

Real estate agents and brokers were invited to designate contributions, at the close of escrow, for a special fund. The proceeds of the fund would then be donated to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation.

Last March, a goal of \$18,000 was set. Through the generosity of the Oakland real estate community that goal was met. At the OAR 2002 inaugural a check was presented to Oral Lee and four of her students. Donations are still being accepted.

To find out more contact Walker at 510-339-4778.

SERKES CONSULTS WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

The National Association of Realtors President Richard Mendenhall recently called on Ira Serkes of Re/Max Bay Area.

Serkes was asked for an opinion on the direction NAR should take on technological issues for its members.

As a result of this meeting, Serkes will draft a code of ethics for Realtors and the Internet. Serkes and his wife Carol are Realtors in the Berkeley area.

Serkes is the author of "How to Buy a House in California". Serkes is available at 800-887-6668 or www.berkeleyhomes.com.

NEED TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE OR GET YOUR BROKERS LICENSE?

Duane Gomer Seminars offer classes for DRE license renewal and broker license testing preparation. For anyone needing license renewal all 45 hours of DRE tests are available in 1/2 day sessions. Courses and test preparation are offered for the brokers license state exam. To ask about class schedules and costs call 1-800-439-4909.

INTERNET PROFESSIONALS

The National Association of Realtors introduced the new e-PRO, a real estate industry technology certification program for real estate professionals. The e-PRO course was designed by Realtors for Realtors.

The course is presented entirely online and certifies real estate ad brokers as Internet Professionals. Realtors are able to complete their studies at their own pace. If you are interested in learning more visit www.eProNAR.com.

MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

Attention Mortgage Professionals. Learning more about an industry is as important as being a part of that industry. The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) and the California Association of Mortgage Brokers (CAMB) strive to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed.

Both have monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers discussing timely topics.

CARL meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6 p.m. Networking also



BOBBIE REID
Credit Worthy

kicks off each CAMB meeting, held on the fourth Thursday of each month. To find out more call these organization's hotlines. The CARL Hotline is 925-746-1847. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

Breakfast Club

Join the lively Wednesday Morning Breakfast Meetings, presented by the California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL). Meetings are held every Wednesday at American Title in Walnut Creek on Olympic Boulevard.

Start time is 8:15 a.m. Breakfast refreshments are served. Need info? Want to recommend a speaker? Call Pat Johnson of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services at 925.296.3300.

WHO'S ON FIRST?

■ The Berkeley Association of Realtors 2002 President is Miriam Ng of Korman & Ng. You can give her a call at 510-525-4600.

■ Evelyn Walker of Coldwell Banker in Montclair is the Oakland Association of Realtors 2002 President. To say congrats call Walker at 510-339-4778. (see article on this page).

Someone new at your company? Something special your company is doing? Changing locations? Putting on a seminar? Let me know. I'd love to let the world know. All my contact info is listed below.

WHAT'S UP DOC?

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company).

I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event. There are three convenient ways to reach me.

■ Send an email to bobbierid@dotplanet.com.

■ Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191.

■ Call me at 510-441-7190.

Walker named OAR president

COLDWELL BANKER

The Oakland Association of Realtors announced that real estate veteran Evelyn Walker has been named president. Walker, who is based in the Oakland-Montclair office of Coldwell Banker, begins a one-year term as president of the OAR, an organization with over 700 members.

"For many years, the presidents of the Oakland Realtors Association have all been managers, but I'm an active Realtor who is listing and selling property," Walker said. "I think that will help me make sure that we're giving our members the services that they want, and I'm excited about that."

Walker was installed as president Dec. 7 at the Claremont Hotel. Her predecessor, John Holmgren, also an Oakland Realtor, introduced Walker with the ceremonial "passing of the gavel."

In a tradition begun by Holmgren during his tenure, Walker introduced the Association's 2002 charitable partner — the founder of the Ora Lee Brown Foundation, Ora Lee Brown.

Walker vowed to continue to raise money for the Foundation and praised the Association's work in meeting their fundraising goal of \$18,000 for 2001.

The Ora Lee Brown Foundation was started in 1987 when Brown, an Oakland Realtor at the time, went into an Oakland elementary school and told a 4th



EVELYN WALKER

grade class that if they graduated high school she promised to pay for their college tuition.

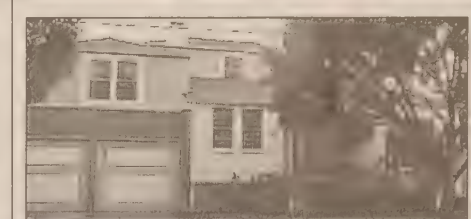
She, along with the help of the Foundation, is also planning to adopt 20 more 9th graders this year and hopes to add two more elementary school classes to her list by the end of the year. With four of her original students from the 4th grade class standing by her side, Brown praised Walker for her dedication to the Foundation and noted "it is a proud day for the Ora Lee Brown Foundation."

Walker earned her bachelor's degree in literature from University of California, Berkeley. She has been a member of the board of directors for the Oakland Association of Realtors since 1997 and was a director for the California Association of Realtors in 2001.

Walker can be reached directly at 510-339-4778 or via e-mail at sales@evelynwalker.com

MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE

When it's your move...



COMING SOON!..... \$699,000

Take a deep breath. One of Albany's finest homes will be introduced on January 10, 2002. It offers five bedrooms, three full bathrooms and a combination kitchen/family room opening to gorgeous deck and garden. This wonderfully designed home boasts amenities galore. Mark your calendar!

Wendy Bakkenita (510) 527-2700x33

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loan limit increase to impact sales

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

California homebuyers will benefit from Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's announcements today that will increase their single-family mortgage loan limit from \$500,000 to \$549,000 in 2002.

Based on our 2002 sales projection, we expect that 353,700 in the state will fall into the range implied by the higher limits, an increase of 23,500 over the 2001 loan limits," California Association of Realtors President Robert Bailey said.

The \$25,700 increase in the single-family mortgage loan limit translates into an additional 20,200 California households able to take advantage of savings provided by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage," Bailey said.

Regionally, an additional 4,900 households in the San Francisco Area and 9,200 households in the county Southern California

region will benefit from the increased loan limits, according to C.A.R. economists. The C.A.R. statistics do not include refinancing activity.

"Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's increased loan limits more accurately reflects the cost of housing in California," Bailey said. "While the median price of a single-family home statewide was \$272,570 in October, in some regions of the state median prices were significantly higher."

"Based on a typical 25 basis point spread between conforming and jumbo mortgage loan rates, a typical California homebuyer will save up to \$18,300 over the life of a 30-year mortgage," he said. In some areas of the state, the recent spread between a conforming and jumbo loan has been as much as 40 basis points. Households in these areas could save up to \$28,300 over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac also announced new limits for multi-

The \$25,700 increase in the single family limit translates into an additional 20,200 California households able to take advantage of savings.

Robert Bailey, CAR president

unit loans for 2002: two-family loans to \$384,900; three-family loans to \$465,200; and four-family loans to \$578,150.

The California Association of Realtors (<http://www.car.org>) is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States, with more than 97,000 members. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Open Sunday



CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,395,000
7070 NORFOLK RD. (Open 2-4:30)
Reduced! Spectacular 5BR/4.5BA w/great views. Separate office or guest suite. 4-car tan-lem garage. Private patio. Francis Heath x357

CLAREMONT PINES \$950,000
1 BEECHWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Nostalgic 1970's ranch w/bay view & level yard. 3BR, 3BA, formal dining room & family room. Jeffrey Himmel x307

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$715,000
3210 CLAREWOOD DR. (Open 2-4:30)
Handsome custom contemporary w/dramatic public spaces & spacious master retreat. 3BR, 2.5BA, den study, decks, yard, kit./lam rm. lovely views. Gini Erck x339

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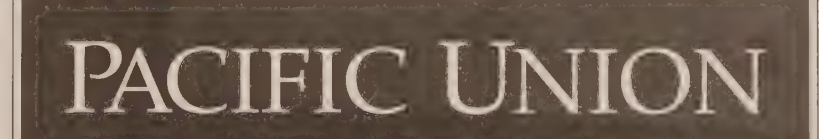
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Open Sunday



510.339.6460
www.pacunion.com

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

Open Sunday

MONTCLAIR \$539,000
1721 INDIAN WAY (Open 2-4:30)
Santa-Fe style 3BR/2BA with in-law. Level front garden, spacious decks, new kitchen, new master baths, hardwood floors. Dick Cohen x302

LAUREL DISTRICT \$379,000
3647-49 LAUREL AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Charming 1912 home with 1BR/1BA unit. Legal duplex. Two small "plus" rooms on 2nd story of house. Wrap-around yard. Ann Nichols x319

By Appointment

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,200,000
Exquisite new custom built Mediterranean villa. Elevator, 4-car garage, views, terraces. Total quality & beauty. 5100/-/- 5BR/4.5BA. Dee Knowland x318

CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,875,000
54BR/5BA. Splendid new home w/piano SF & GG views. Gourmet kit./fam rm. Luxury master suite. Approx. 1/2 acre. Nancy Norman x331

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,150,000
Charming English-style Tudor w/half timbers, gabled roofs & bay windows. Architecturally distinctive w/great use of natural materials. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x331

CLAREMONT HILLS LOT \$630,000
SF & Bay view lot framed by large greenbelt canyon. Private road. Soils report survey & architectural blueprints included. David Ichikawa x331

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1842 8th St - \$316,000
220 Bannister Ct - \$370,000
3242 Bayo Vista Av - \$450,000
3215 Briggs Av #C - \$310,000
1708 Cornell Dr - \$670,000
1328 Eastshore Dr - \$695,000
811 Harbor Rd - \$415,000
1921 Lafayette St - \$445,000
210 Sea Bridge Wy - \$553,000
2101 Shoreline #233 - \$280,000
955 Shorepoint #304 - \$205,000
1327 Webster #B30 - \$135,000

ALBANY

1025 Kains Av - \$195,000
624 Kains Av - \$410,000
1012 Santa Fe Av - \$470,000

BERKELEY

1461 9th St - \$320,000
2444 Acton St - \$282,500
2722 Acton St - \$369,000
3076 Buena Vista Wy - \$915,000
1035 Cedar St - \$370,000

2820 Cherry St - \$551,000
667 Colusa Av - \$425,000
2635 Etna St - \$1,078,000
1017 Fresno Av - \$744,000
1608 Julia St - \$429,000
1415 Keoncrest Dr - \$422,500
43 Maryland Av - \$625,000
1937 Oregon St - \$432,000
1198 Oxford St - \$570,000
1215 Queens Rd - \$385,000
1230 Queens Rd - \$492,000
1925 Stuart St - \$527,000
2205 Stuart St - \$415,000

EL CERRITO

2515 Alva Av - \$413,000
721 Avila Pl - \$575,000
1326 Everett St - \$362,000
545 Everett St - \$317,000
5519 MacDonald Av - \$369,000
418 Village Dr - \$485,500

EL SOBRANTE

316 Ash Ln - \$220,000
4248 Fariss Ln - \$285,000
5705 Sobrante Av - \$350,000
4008 St. James Dr - \$190,000

EMERYVILLE

6363 Christie #171 - \$325,000
3 Commodore #B15 - \$250,500

KENSINGTON

612 Beloit Av - \$589,000
601 Plateau Dr - \$555,000
29 Sunset Dr - \$494,000

OAKLAND

2124 105th Av - \$235,000
2016 108th Av - \$254,000
1125 10th Av - \$125,000
2021 22nd Av - \$315,000
2460 26th Av - \$233,000
2636 38th Av - \$310,000
1815 39th Av - \$340,000
385 45th St - \$417,500
1124 53rd St - \$325,000
554 56th St - \$215,000
1807 66th Av - \$70,000
3401 66th Av - \$52,500
2557 67th Av - \$275,000
330 8th St #3F - \$202,500
658 Aileen St - \$390,000

3710 Allendale Av - \$145,000
4008 Ardley Av - \$155,000
1957 Asilomar Dr - \$695,000
2986 Barrett St - \$273,000
3044 Bartlett St - \$305,000
5387 Belgrave Pl - \$535,000
565 Bellevue #180 - \$495,000
1708 Bridge Av - \$225,000
4314 Bridgeview Dr - \$740,000
4014 Brookdale Av - \$240,000
6241 Buena Vista - \$1,100,500
9611 C St - \$275,000
280 Caldecott #118 - \$330,000
180 Caldecott #215 - \$245,000
14 Chancellor Pl - \$1,500,000
1600 Church St - \$195,000
3921 Coolidge Av - \$355,000
4100 Culver St - \$212,000
9651 D St - \$205,000
2551 East 11th St - \$84,000
1309 East 17th St - \$400,000
1397 East 27th St - \$200,000
5464 El Camille Av - \$310,000
642 El Dorado Av - \$452,500
5845 Estates Dr - \$625,000
1224 Excelsior Av - \$600,000
4854 Fair Av - \$305,000
4332 Fleming Av - \$305,000

6467 Girvin Dr - \$485,000
322 Hanover Av #302 - \$310,000
3544 Harrison St - \$175,000
5939 Hayes St - \$158,000
1242 Holman Rd - \$350,000
3877 Howe St #309 - \$179,500
2320 Hughes Av - \$205,000
375 Jayne Av - \$199,000
5681 Keith Av - \$622,000
3460 Lynde St - \$225,000
6316 MacArthur Bl - \$217,500
7005 MacArthur Bl - \$175,000
5116 Manila Av - \$555,000
5273 Miles Av - \$430,000
3658 Monterey Bl - \$450,000
4318 Montgomery St - \$575,000
8227 Ney Av - \$303,000
662 Poirier St - \$307,500
3021 Richmond Bl - \$220,000
541 Rosal Av - \$500,000
4610 San Sebastian - \$513,000
6617 Simson St - \$360,000
734 Stratford Rd - \$220,000
3720 Suter St - \$146,500
12095 Tartan Wy - \$665,000
8727 Thermal St - \$310,000
10636 Topanga Dr - \$186,000

2755 Vallecito Pl - \$270,000
331 Vernon St - \$425,000
3890 Waterhouse Rd - \$300,000
3262 West St - \$137,500
8100 Winthrop St - \$200,000
1880 Woodhaven Wy - \$300,000
70 Yosemite Av #107 - \$100,000

PIEDMONT

1116 Oakland Av - \$547,000
1355 Oakland Av - \$680,000

RICHMOND

22 1st St - \$418,500
726 40th St - \$225,000
576 5th St - \$213,000
1369 Battery St - \$155,000
2502 Baywood Wy - \$280,000
182 Berk Pl - \$250,000
1758 Burbeck Av - \$221,000
1355 Cherry St - \$149,000
6390 Claremont Av - \$300,000
2203 Coalonga Av - \$210,000
2989 Deseret Dr - \$310,000

See SALES Page B6

The GRUBB Co.



8539 Willis Court, Redwood Heights
Offered at \$409,000

Debbi DiMaggio
Making Transactions Easier

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of this and other current listings.

6373 Pinehaven Road \$439,000



Charming Colonial 3 bedroom, 1 full and 2 half-bath home in a wonderful wood neighborhood close to the Montclair Village and commuter friendly. Come visit this home January 6th & 13th from 2-4:30 p.m.



Prudential
California Realty

Angie Williams

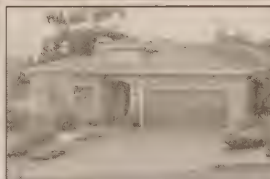
Prudential California Realty
2077 Mountain Blvd., Oakland
(510) 869-4222 Voice



COLDWELL BANKER PREMIERS



HIGHEST QUALITY CONSTRUCTION \$988,000
Dramatic contemporary overlooks Lake
Open Space. 4BR/2.5BA,
deck, EZ maintenance & commu. 510-486-1495
Rita Zwerdling



UPPER ROCKRIDGE 3BR/2BA \$689,000

Mediterranean built in 1994. Bay view, all level, HWF, FP, newer paint in/out, new garage door.
Nancy Dickey 510-339-4700



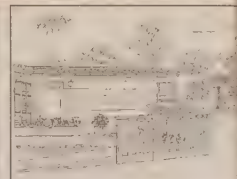
JOAQUIN MILLER 4+BR/2.5BA 5037 Pierpoint \$539,000

Sunny, spacious Traditional. Great floor-plan, level rear yard, convenient cul-de-sac location close to parks & shopping.
Mannaz Judson 510-339-4700



ENGLISH STYLE BEAUTY \$699,000

3BR/1+BA Tudor w/ sunny attic & fanciful spa retreat under a rare dawn redwood. Gourmet kitchen & nook.
Jeanne McHugh 510-486-1495



TWO HOMES, GREAT LOCATION \$525,000

2 charming houses on 1 lot. Front house is 2BR/1BA & wheelchair access. Back house is 1BR/1BA.
Mamoud Moktari 510-486-1495

BY APPOINTMENT

Richmond-Hilltop.....\$255,000
3BR/2BA, comfortable, open floor plan, fireplace, on corner lot.
Barbara Marienthal.....510-486-1495

GREAT OPPORTUNITY.....\$240,000
Good starter home. 2BR/1BA. Newer paint in & out, updated bath, newer roof, 5K lot!
Commute convenience.
Josh Whitmer.....510-486-1495

Berkeley.....\$649,000
Enchanting old world details w/modern kitchen. Formal LR & DR. 3BR/2BA. Terraced garden.
Barbara Marienthal.....510-486-1495

Berkeley.....\$499,000
Unique Tahoe feel! Woodsy retreat close in! Great room, cathedral ceilings, stained glass. 2BR/2.5BA.
Rita Zwerdling.....510-486-1495

Berkeley.....\$648,000
Much privacy! Dream 3 level terraced backyard. Large sunny rooms, classic 20's wood detailing, finished basement. 3BR/3BA.
Kim Cleveland.....510-486-1495

Montclair.....\$789,000
5BR/3BA. Views! Space! Yard! A great find in desirable Montclair. Move right in this lovely 1993 home.
Ellen Lancaster.....510-339-4700

Montclair.....\$675,000
4BR/3BA. Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.
Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen.....510-339-4700

Moraga.....\$489,000
3BR/2.5BA. Mediterranean-style, spacious townhome! only 15-years-old. Great floorplan, large eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, FP, skylights.
Elena Stone.....510-339-4700

Oakland 4-Plex.....\$395,000
Mellow 4-plex on approx. 7500 sq. ft. lot, nice area.
Don Coelho.....510-339-4700

Oakland.....\$315,000
4BR/2BA. Large back yard, "fixer/as is". Don't miss it!
Mannaz Judson.....510-339-4700

Montclair.....\$295,000
2-BR/1BA. Large lot w/level front & back yard, big deck, wooded view, plus rooms w/separate entrance.
Victor Ratto.....510-339-4700

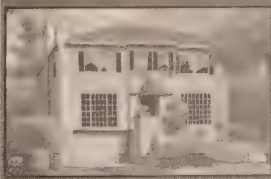
Victor Ratto.....\$200,000
2BR/1BA. Starter/fixer plus large workshop, HWF, built-ins, close to shopping districts.
Victor Ratto.....510-339-4700

LOTS

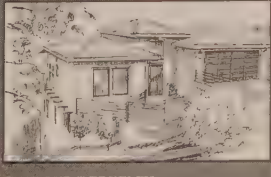
Evergreen, Claremont.....\$325,000
Views facing SF Bay, large level area at bottom of lot.
David Eckert.....510-339-4700

Broadway, Rockridge.....\$325,000
Over 21,000 sq. ft. w/tentative approval to be subdivided into 3 lots.
Darcy Diamantine.....510-339-4700

7207 Skyline, Montclair.....\$895,000
Canyon view, downslope w/soil report & survey.
Jon Dunn.....510-339-4700



PIEDMONT \$1,095,000
Prime central Piedmont location.
Traditional 4+BR/3BA, family room & living room open to the yard.
Dian Hymer.....510-339-4700



OAKLAND/BERKELEY BORDER \$799,000
Gorgeous 4BR/3BA new construction.
Conveniently located, near College Ave.
Suzanne.....510-339-4700

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510.339.4700

1495 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley
510.486.1495

COLDWELL
BANKER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

New Year's
Greetings

from your local
Coldwell Banker Offices

Sales

FROM PAGE B6

1811 Esmond Av - \$246,000
1240 Fairway Dr - \$275,000
3319 Florida Av - \$140,000
6609 Kensington Av - \$385,000
2520 Maricopa Av - \$237,000
4004 McGlothen Wy - \$205,000
3130 Moyers Rd - \$281,000
815 Poppy Ct - \$343,000
1300 Quarry Ct #114 - \$325,000
1300 Quarry Ct #404 - \$507,500
751 Regents Dr - \$431,000
2763 Sheldon Dr - \$263,000
112 South 17th St - \$168,500
140 South 22nd St - \$433,000
6106 Van Fleet Av - \$341,000
1518 Visalia Av - \$230,000
474 Western Dr - \$760,000
929 Yuba St - \$265,000

SAN LEANDRO

1481 142nd Av - \$288,000

250 Bellevue Dr - \$340,000
350 Beverly Av - \$445,000
15355 Bittern Ct - \$300,000
14397 Doolittle #10 - \$238,000
14917 Ebb Tide St - \$443,000
15309 Edgemoor St - \$380,000
14513 Flagship St - \$288,000
16343 Helo Dr - \$295,000
15472 Heron Dr - \$389,000
1881 Lopez Dr - \$410,000
1683 Manor Bl - \$335,000
1538 Manzanita Av - \$335,000
718 Matoza Ln - \$502,000
3916 Monterey Bl - \$345,000
15055 Norton St - \$290,000
16829 President Dr - \$520,000
2248 Raven Ct - \$373,500
16354 Ria Dr - \$150,000
14229 Santiago Rd - \$315,000
15501 Sedgeman St - \$383,000
15593 Sedgeman St - \$358,000
1379 Vining Dr - \$328,500

SAN LORENZO

997 Hacienda Av - \$305,000

33 Paseo Grande #C - \$230,000
614 Tulsa St - \$335,000
17367 Via Arroyo - \$270,000
16021 Via Catherine - \$385,000
603 Via Mirabel - \$305,000
17065 Via Piedras - \$190,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 12
LOWEST PRICE: \$135,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$695,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$403,667

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$195,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$470,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$358,333

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 18

LOWEST PRICE: \$282,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,078,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$519,556

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$317,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$575,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,250

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$350,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$262,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$325,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$287,750

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 3

LOWEST PRICE: \$494,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$589,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$555,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$546,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 77
LOWEST PRICE: \$52,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,500,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$305,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$345,662

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$547,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$680,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$613,750

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 29
LOWEST PRICE: \$140,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$760,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$265,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$296,224

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 23
LOWEST PRICE: \$150,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$520,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$340,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$350,043

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$385,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$305,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$288,571

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. All questions regarding this information should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233.

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★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open

OAKLAND/PIEDMONT

Custom Piedmont Home \$1,395,000
By appointment only. All level 3BR/3BA, den, solarium, indoor pool. Big lot.

Madalyn Mitchell
510-428-0900

Historic Warehouse \$359,000
Top floor loft, indust. window skylights. Great bldg. close to the Square & transportation.

Joan
510-297-4019

Jack London Sizzles \$325,000
Beautifully upgraded 2BR/2BA condo on the water. Large balcony, new kitchen, pool, tennis, etc. Transportation nearby.

Joan
510-297-4019

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$1,025,000
16 Observation Pl. Spectacular 4BR/3BA home w/great view, special details and decks.

Vince Moran
510-339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-5 \$669,000
401 Hiller Dr. Hiller Highlands. Reduced price on this fabulous 3BR/2.5BA w/skylights, vaulted ceilings, 2 fireplaces. Bright loft & remodeled kit. Open 01/06 and 01/13 (2-5).

Ivan Michael
510-527-9800

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$619,000
332 Modoc. Rockridge gem! Bay view, remod. kitchen, spacious home office, more!

Logene Butler
510-524-2526

Parkridge Estates \$589,000
Lovely 4BR/2.5BA home w/gorgeous view from family room and deck off master suite.

Herb Manor
510-339-9290

Private Golf Range! \$539,000
1/4 acre, 3BR, 2.5BA, LR w/FP, FDR, 2 decks, serene canyon views in almost every room.

Monica Forneret
510-433-7064

Big Family Home! \$474,000
4BR/2BA with many upgrades. Large home & lot - could become duplex.

Nancy Blom
510-337-8670

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$295,000
730 - 29th Street. Spacious loft w/high floor to ceiling windows and gated parking.

Nanine Watson
510-339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$550,000
4749 Rolling Hills, Castro Valley. Great 2-story, 6BR/3BA w/big master suite.

Craig Shane
510-339-9290

CASTRO VALLEY

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$550,000
4749 Rolling Hills, Castro Valley. Great 2-story, 6BR/3BA w/big master suite.

Craig Shane
510-339-9290

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Orinda Estate \$1,695,000
Custom designed European style chateau with 6BR/4+BA surrounded by gardens on 1.2 acres.

Gene Boomer
510-339-9290

EMERYVILLE

Lofty Idea \$339,000
How about a hi-tech loft in the middle of the East Bay? Classic bldg., hi ceilings, light and SF view.

Candice Economides
510-845-0200

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Two Architect Designed \$850,000
Townhouses. 2BR, 2.5BA ea. Beautiful redwood trim, hwd. floors, deck, garden, storage, 2 parking spaces.

Liz Hibbard
510-464-4498
510-849-3711

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$599,500
1589 Scenic. Walk to campus! New Berk. listing! 2+BR w/in-law, remod. kit., HWF, retrofitted, more!

Terry Jue
510-524-2526

★ Open Sun 1-4 \$499,888
1066 Curtis. Large Albany home. Great potential - 3BR, full basement, 2 car detached garage.

Sharon Brown
510-527-9800
510-235-4795

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$439,000
6373 Pinehaven Rd. Attractive 3BR/1+BA Colonial w/updated kitchen and bath.

Angie Williams
510-339-9290

Glenview Charming! \$425,000
2+BR/1.5BA, LR, DR, EIK, great location! Walking to public trans. & schools.

Monica Forneret
510-845-0211

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$425,000
2+BR/1.5BA, LR, DR, EIK, great location! Walking to public trans. & schools.

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Monica Forneret
510-845-0211

Cute Laurel District Starter!

3221 Florida Street

This delightful bungalow is located on a quiet cul-de-sac, yet conveniently located near public transit & freeway. A level backyard and an in-law unit above the garage make this starter home a very special value!

- 2 Bdrms/1 Bath
- Hardwood Floors & Built-ins
- Formal LR w/Fireplace
- Freshly Painted, Inside & Out!

Offered at \$310,000

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BERKELEY

1998 San Antonio
Private Park with pool & tennis court & very low dues, the park is adjacent to this beautiful property and creates one's own resort! The home has 4 bedrooms, plus au-pair suite, library & formal dining room.

Bebe McRae x145 \$2,300,000

711 Spruce
Exceptional Mediterranean in the North Berkeley Hills! This 4 bedroom home has been entirely renovated with great taste & beautiful finishes. Bay views & large yard make this a rare opportunity.

Bebe McRae x145 \$995,000

Close to Campus
Stately Edwardian with beautiful original detail & built-ins! 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, den, formal dining, eat-in kitchen! Close to campus!

Bebe McRae x145 \$750,000

Office Exclusive •
542 Santa Barbara
Very Spacious, updates & expanded brown shingle on one of North Berkeley's most sought after streets. 5BR, 2+BA, separate studio/office. Beautiful finished attic space. Lovely garden, fabulous views.

Ruth Frassetto x147

54 Vicente Road •
Views & Location
Rare, large parcel of view land in fabulous location near the Claremont Hotel. Two parcels were merged to create this incredible 32,000 sq. ft. lot. Mostly level, neighborhood of distinguished homes.

Faye Keogh x126 \$1,650,000

484 Vassar Avenue •
Fabulous, Unobstructed Bay Views!
Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath with craftsman touches. Light filled, great floor plan for entertaining. Big yard & wonderful 2nd unit with separate access.

Anne Van Dyke x137 \$799,000

1582 First Avenue • Pending
Great opportunity! Wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Walk to Larkey Park and BART. Large family room, leading to large terrific yards.

Anne Van Dyke x137 \$450,000

3070 Claremont Ave.
510.652.2133
www.templetonleverette.com

1582 First Avenue • Pending
Great opportunity! Wonderful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Walk to Larkey Park and BART. Large family room, leading to large terrific yards.

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ALAMEDA 510-337-8670

ALBANY 510-524-2526

BERKELEY 510-845-0200

BERKELEY NORTH 510-849-3711

CLAREMONT 510-845-0211

EL CERRITO 510-527-9800

GRAND LAKE 510-834-2010

KENSINGTON 510-526-5143

MONTCLAIR 510-339-9290

PIEDMONT 510-428-0900

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ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1338 Bay St Open Sunday, Main Island Hanna Fry 510-521-5475, Kane & Associates	380/	2.5BA	2-4
122 Purcell Open Sunday Elaine Miller 510-814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$875,000
16 Smith Court Open Sunday, HBI Marie Kane 510-523-5048 Kane & Associates	480/2.5BA	2-4	\$638,000
63 Sable Pointe Open Sunday Maureen Shandoh 510-814-4880 Harbor Bay Realty	4 - 80/3BA	2-4	\$629,000
1829 Sandcreek Way Open Sunday, Main Island Lillian Silva, Kane & Associates 510-855-8564	380/	2-4	\$875,000
1809 Yale Dr Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Ron Bang 510-748-1110	380/2ba	2-4	\$565,000
3208 Fairview Ave Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Bill Beasett 510-748-1108	580/2.5ba	12-2	\$548,500
1725 Otis Dr Open Sunday George J. Bonkas, Ritz Real Estate Services 510-523-8555	380/2BA	2-4	\$545,000
27 Cork Rd Open Sat & Sun, HBI Valerie Newman 510-521-7214 Kane & Associates	380/	2-4	\$538,000
138 Purcell Open Sunday Mark Wyman 510-522-5827, Baylands Real Estate	380/	2-4	\$538,000
164 Purcell Open Sun, HBI Renee & Rich Thomas 510-522-2916, Kane & Associates	380/	2-4	\$529,000
203 Cheswick Ct Open SUNDAY Connie Hanna 510-814-4814 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$495,000
456 Lincoln Ave Open Sun, Main Island Alan Good 510-522-0968 Kane & Associates	380/	2-4	\$380,000

ALAMEDA

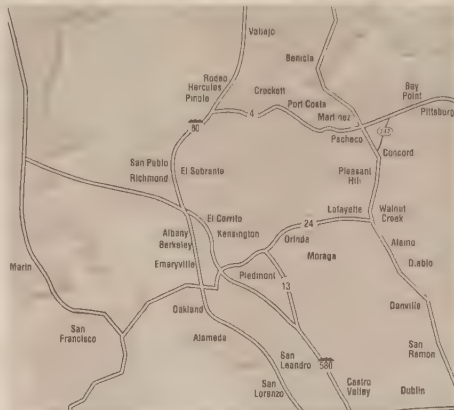
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2106 Old Dr. Unit E South Shore, Open Sun, D.C. Hodges 510-531-7967, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	2bd/1.5ba	2-4:30	\$318,500
2000 Central #10 Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Bill Beasett 510-748-1108	2bd/1ba	2-4	\$269,500
1718 A Main St Open Sunday Janice Payne 510-814-4848 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$223,000
2023 Otis Dr #E Open Sat & Sun Gallagher & Lindsey, Bill Beasett 510-748-1108	1bd/1ba	2-4	\$215,000
1435 Summit Rd. Elle Bowden & Assoc. 925-939-2858 or www.lovehomes.com	284/2ba	1-4	\$480,000
1807 Blake RED OAK, 510-280-2110, Alexandra	3bd/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$475,000
1030 Delaware St., Unit A North Berkeley Better Homes May Jane McConville (510) 339-8400	380/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$349,000
1198 Cornell Ave RED OAK, 510-280-2178, Grace	1bd/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$248,000

CASTRO VALLEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4749 Rolling Hills Craig Shane, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	6bd/3ba Sun 2-4:30		\$550,000

CONCORD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
907/914 Estrella Ct Sandy Chu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	3 - 7 - 3 - 3	Sun 1-4:55/18.995 to 6:00K	



Advertise in the Open Home Guide!
The Montclair, The Piedmont, The Berkeley Voice,
The Journal & The Alameda Journal
Call 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
408 Bonito Dr Denise Biagi, Marvin Gardens, 510-569-2998	3bd/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$499,000
1511 Richmond St RED OAK, 510-280-2107, Marsha	3bd/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$329,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
7070 Norfolk Rd Claremont Hills Pacific Union Franck Heath (510) 339-6460 x337	580/4.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,395,000 REDUCED!!!

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
122 Crocker Ave Madelyn Mitchell, Prudential Ca Realty, 510-429-0900	3bd/3ba Sun 2-4:30		\$1,395,000
6155 Glenview Dr. Piedmont Pines, Open Sun Tom Erwin, 510-339-9900 x230, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	580/3.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,188,000
16 Observation Pl Vince Moran, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4bd/3ba Sun 2-4:30		\$1,025,000
6153 Glenview Dr. Piedmont Pines, Open Sun Christian Downer, 510-339-9900 x256, Century 21 Heritage R.E.	580/4.5BA	2-4:30	\$998,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
6150 Mazuela Dr Sandy Chu, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	4bd/3 - Sun 2-4:30		\$960,000
1 Beechwood Dr Claremont Pines Pacific Union Jeffrey Himmel (510) 339-6460 x307	380/3BA	2-4:30	\$960,000
60 Pine Hill Ct Wells & Bennett Realtors David Hennigan (510) 901-9540	480/3BA Sun 2-4:30		\$939,000
767 Santa Ray Ave. Crosby Highlands Better Homes Real Estate Hyatt 510-339-9400	4 - 6d/4ba Sun 2-4:30		\$749,000
2014 Clemens Road Better Homes Patricia Bennett (510) 339-8400	480/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$718,000
5210 Clarewood Dr Upper Rockridge Pacific Union Gini Erick (510) 339-6460 x339	380/2.5BA	2-4:30	\$715,000
5736 Chilton Dr Montclair Wells & Bennett Realtors Claire Sytek (510) 531-7000 x274	380/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$699,000
5915 La Salle Better Homes Gary Robinson (510) 339-4080	3 - 8d/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$589,000
3 Windward Hill RED OAK, 510-280-2142, Jerry	3bd/2.5	Sun 2-4	\$575,000
1053 Walker Ave Wells & Bennett Realtors Jack McPhail (510) 339-6460 x308	280/1BA	2-4:30	\$549,000
1721 Indian Way Pacific Union Dick Cohen (510) 339-6460 x308	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$539,000
5037 Pinyonpoint Joachim Miller Coldwell Banker, Mahnaz Judson 510-339-4700	480/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30		\$539,000
5115 Saddle Brook Dr Monica Forrester, Prudential-Claremont, 510-949-0211	3bd/2.5	Sun 2-4	\$525,000
335 Hanover Ave. Better Homes Teresa Chan (510) 339-4800	380/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$478,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4551 Ellora Ave Redwood Heights Pacific Union Jeffrey Himmel (510) 339-6460	380/1BA	2-4:30	\$460,000
6373 Pineshore Rd Angie Smith, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	2bd/1 - Sun 2-4:30		\$460,000
1460 Excelsior Ave Monica Forrester, Prudential-Claremont, 510-949-0211	2 - 7/5 Sun 2-4		\$460,000
3647-49 Laurel Ave Laurel District Pacific Union Ann Nichols (510) 339-4440	180/1BA	2-4:30	\$460,000
3209-3311 Nicol Ave Laurel Realty World - East Bay Wee Barta (510) 339-4440	280/1BA	Sun 2-4	\$460,000
3209-3311 Nicol Ave Wee Barta, Realty World, 510-385-0453	4bd/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$460,000
3221 Florida St Laurel Better Homes, Rose Wyszewski, 510-339-9400	2bd/1ba Sun 2-4:30		\$460,000
303 Adams St #404 Adams Point Wells & Bennett Realtors Praty Buhler (510) 531-7000	280/2BA Sun 2-4:30		\$460,000
730 29th St Karin Watson, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-9290	1bd/1ba Sun 2-4:30		\$460,000
151 Lakeside Dr #113 Lake Merritt, Open Sun. Tom Erwin, 510-339-9900 x230, Century 21 Heritage	2bd/2ba	2-4:30	\$460,000
4120 Penniman Ave. Sat. & Sun. at the apartment. (510) 233-5335	180/1BA	12-3	\$460,000

PIEDMONT

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
461 Scenic Ave Pacific Union Sandi Kanner (510) 339-6460	280/2BA	2-4:30	\$460,000

RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4363 Nelson Dr Bonnie Scott, Marvin Gardens, 510-569-2993	3bd - Sun 1:30-4:00		\$460,000

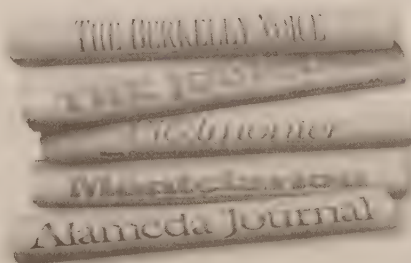
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Low mortgage rates, strong home prices help boost our economy

FREDDIE MAC

McLean, VA - The Commerce Department announced recently that the economy contracted a revised 1.3 percent in the third quarter, the weakest performance in a decade. But the economy would likely have delivered even weaker performance if not for the strength of the housing market.

Housing has provided a firm foundation for much of the economy propelled by very low mortgage rates which gave homeowners the opportunity to lower their housing expenses. With expenses reduced, and extra cash in hand, homeowners have had more disposable income to give a lift to the sagging economy.

The Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey found that fixed-rate 30-year mortgages were going for about 7.17 percent (with a cost of 0.7 points) in the week ended Dec. 28. But while that is up from the 30-year low of

6.45 percent recorded back in November, mortgage rates still are very affordable and have been that way for most of 2001.

Because mortgage rates have been low, many homeowners chose to refinance older, higher rate mortgages, and improve their household balance sheet. The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in 2001 was 6.96 percent, compared to 8.06 percent in 2000. So savings due to refinancing could be considerable. For example, for a homeowner with a typical 30-year fixed-rate mortgage of \$150,000, reducing the rate to the 2001 average 30-year mortgage would save the family \$1,000.00 per year!

In addition to the boost to household balance sheets that lower mortgage payments produced, a number of families this

year refinanced and tapped a small portion of the equity in their homes. While solid statistics are not available, it's believed that many families used the cash from house price appreciation to pay down more expensive credit card debt, further improving their overall financial positions.

So while the economy is officially in a recession, housing is playing a strong role from it sinking even further. The Homeownership Alliance, a housing advocacy organization of which Freddie Mac is a member, recently ran ads in major national newspapers touting the economic impact of housing. We couldn't agree more and that's why we will continue to work with our lender customers to find ways to increase homeownership and lower the cost of obtaining a mortgage.

Hymer

FROM PAGE B1

past. One approach, if the seller's price is too high, is to bid a low offer and then jump up in price. Let's say the house you want is listed for \$330,000, and it has been on the market awhile. You think the house is worth \$310,000. You might make an initial offer of \$275,000. The seller is appalled, and counters back at \$325,000.

You might then counter back at \$310,000—a significant improvement from your initial offer. There's a good chance the sellers will accept your offer.

Some buyers prefer to inch along with their negotiations. In the above example, rather than making a big jump up in price, the buyers might counter the seller's \$325,000 price with \$280,000. The seller reduced his price \$5,000; the buyers mimics the seller by improving their price by \$5,000.

The inch along approach requires a modicum of patience. If the negotiations bog down, and there's still room to improve your price, try splitting the difference. This strategy has an incredible rate of success because both parties feel that they've come out ahead.

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price an equal amount, you each other half way and create a win-win situation that you both can feel good about.

Dian Hymer is author of *Winning Out, the Complete Home Buyer's Guide*, "Chronicle Books." She is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office. She can be reached at 510.339.0400.

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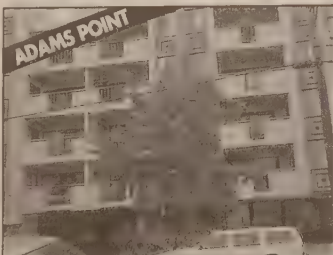
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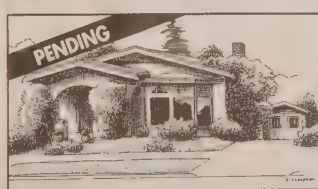
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PROFESSIONALISM & PROGRESS SINCE 1924 A FAMILY TRADITION

Panthers ring in the new

St. Mary's opens league with win on road; four score in double digits

By Bill Kruissink
STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — St. Joseph Notre Dame had a plan: hang with the St. Mary's Panthers early and keep things close. Catching them would then be a possibility.

Didn't work out that way. Exactly the opposite, actually. The league opener for both clubs, the Panthers came out on fire. Employing stifling full-court pressure on defense, then muscling inside on offense, St. Mary's (8-5 overall, 1-0 in the BSAL) took control early en route to defeating the Pilots 58-34.

Penetrating inside the paint, Shantrell Sneed, Meghan Leary and Heidi Spurgeon all pumped in buckets to give the Panthers a 13-0 lead. Kamaiya Warren then took control under the glass, scoring three quick baskets for a 19-4 advantage with two minutes to go in the first quarter.

For their part, the Pilots didn't get a shot off until nearly three minutes had elapsed and didn't score until midway in the first period.

"In the beginning, it was the full-court press," coach Donnie Lawson said. "We took advantage of that and got the quick layups."

"The strength of our team is obviously our inside game — pounding the ball inside," said Sneed, a freshman who scored 13 points and had six rebounds and seven steals.

"I think we just weren't ready for their size and that competition," Pilot Leilani Wagner admitted. "We came out nervous. These girls are big. It was their game."

The Pilots (6-7, 0-1), of course, did have something to say about the course of the game. In the early going, senior Christina Blackwood (15 points) did the talking, scoring all eight of the Pilots' first-quarter points. Six of her points came on buckets close in, the other two from the free-throw line.

But the Panthers more than kept pace. Blocking shots or outright stealing balls, St. Mary's' tymed St. Joe throughout the first half. Two-and-a-half minutes into the second period, the Pilots had just 10 points to show.

Meanwhile, guards Spurgeon and Sneed found a nice groove on the floor, scoring all around the key. Eventually, the 3-pointers began to drop (Spurgeon, Leary, Sneed and Amber Moore all had one) and the win was in sight.

"We're getting more outside shots," Sneed said. "Our outside shooters are stepping up."

Then there was the Panther defense. Though backing off the full-court pressure, St. Mary's refused to give ground under the basket.

The result? The Pilots did not have one period in which they scored in double digits. St. Mary's was up 36-16 at the half and 43-25 rounding the end.

"One of our building strengths

Prep girls' basketball

St. Mary's	58
St. Joseph	34
La Jolla	59
Berkeley	41



LOOKING FOR AN OPEN SHOT, St. Mary's freshman Shantrell Sneed faced the outstretched arms of the opposition. Playing in Alameda on Jan. 2, the Panthers defeated the St. Joseph Notre Dame Pilots 58-34.

is our defense," Sneed said.

Postgame

IT'S RELATIVE: The Panthers came into the league opener with a 7-5 record — a good record, but not eye-popping.

On the other hand, the Panthers played a tough preleague schedule, one which included tournaments at Northgate and in Seattle.

"We scheduled up," coach Donnie Lawson said. "We played a lot of D-I and D-II (teams)."

"Our nonleague record is not a reflection of how we're doing," forward/guard Shantrell Sneed said. "We played hard teams: Heritage Park, which has been undefeated for something like two years."

Sneed added: "We have a lot to learn, a lot more work to do to get ready for NCS."

That would be the postseason, which shows how high the team's sights are.

STATS: Meghan Leary led all scorers with 18 points ... Heidi Spurgeon had 11 points and 10 steals to go with her three assists ... Sneed, who had 13 points, scored in every quarter and had seven steals and six boards.

SCHEDULE: The Panthers host the Holy Names Monarchs (8-6, 1-0) tonight at 7 p.m. The Monarchs also opened the league season with a win, topping Piedmont 54-38. In winning the contest, just one Monarch scored in double digits (Tahira Ikharo with 11 points),

but a total of nine players put points on the board.

On Jan. 8, St. Mary's is at St. Elizabeth. The Mustangs were idle Jan. 4 and host St. Joseph tonight.

La Jolla 59, Berkeley 41

PITTSBURG — The Berkeley High School girls' basketball team didn't know much about Candice Wiggins entering Thursday night's matchup with La Jolla Country Day.

The Yellow Jackets learned all they needed to know after the first 10 minutes of the game. Wiggins took Berkeley (5-6) to task and scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Torres past Berkeley 59-41 in the first round of the West Coast Jamboree's Diamond Division.

"She was a very quick player," Yellow Jackets forward Sabrina Keys said. "She can penetrate really well."

Wiggins single-handedly outscored the Yellow Jackets 12-5 in the second quarter. The sophomore completed a three-point play midway through the second to put La Jolla Country Day (8-2) up 18-10.

"Candice is probably one of the best players in the country for her age," Torres coach Terri Bamford said. "She plays both ends of the court and gives everything she has. She never lets up."

Neither do her teammates. If

it wasn't Wiggins driving the lane, it was senior guard June Brubaker hitting the outside shot or beating Berkeley down the floor. Brubaker finished with 15 points.

The Yellow Jackets struggled to find their rhythm for most of the night, scoring only 12 points in the first half. The Torres took a 55-24 lead after Mercedes Fox-Griffin converted a layup on the right side with 5 minutes, 25 seconds to go in the third.

"We haven't been playing Berkeley basketball in the past few games," Keys said. "The starters came out very slow, and we never picked it up."

Keys, the Yellow Jackets' leading scorer, was hampered with foul trouble for most of the game. She picked up her third personal with 5:21 to go in the third. To make matters even more difficult, Keys broke the ring finger on her left hand in the first half while trying to grab a rebound. Keys sat the entire fourth quarter and finished with five points.

"It was hard to make a basket after that," Keys said. "When the guards penetrated, (the forwards) stepped up and picked up easy fouls. That benefited them and put us out of the game."

Jennifer Starks contributed to this report.

BSAL girls' hoops preview

BSAL girls hoops: crowded at the top

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

If you believe what St. Mary's coach Donnie Lawson says, then the powers of girls basketball in the Bay Shore Athletic League will reside in the northern tier of schools — Kennedy, Salesian, and his Panthers.

The Eagles swept through the league in 2000-2001 with a 13-0 record (24-4 overall) and Salesian was third at 8-5 (19-9). St. Mary's was 6-7 (13-14 overall) in the BSAL last season, but is much improved this year.

"I think the northern schools in the league should be the favorites to make the playoffs," Lawson said. "They look the strongest. The other schools, especially Piedmont, are rebuilding. We've gone through that phase and I think we will be pretty good this season."

The specter of 6-foot-6 Kennedy center Deidra Chatman hangs over the entire league — there is simply no other player that can match up with her. And in a league that has some solid players, but no hands-down star, there is no one to compete with the University of Virginia-bound Chatman.

So pencil in Kennedy first and then the league becomes more of a crapshoot. Salesian has some talent (forward Lisa Marchini, center Imani Dhahabu) and a coach (Steve Cuevas) who has the Chieftains playing up to their skill level.

St. Mary's, after a down period, is on the rebound with Kamaiya Warren, a 6-0 senior center, freshman forward Shantrell Sneed and junior point guard Meghan Leary. The Panthers have played a tough schedule and should be ready for league.

After that, who knows?

Albany is an interesting case. Yvonne Arnold is back after a decade's absence and is in charge of an 0-18 team that is already 4-3. A new gym, new hope and a couple of good players — guards Jodi Nagakura and Stephanie Wissler.

John Swett is an unknown but could be a factor in what is a very fluid league. The only solid substance is Kennedy and really, all the other spots are up for grabs. A team-by-team glance at the BSAL:

Albany

- **HEAD COACH:** Yvonne Arnold, first season
- **2000-01 RECORD:** 0-13, 0-18 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** C Mana Martinez, Jr.; G Stephanie Wissler, So.
- **TOP NEWCOMERS:** G Jodi Nagakura, Jr.; F Stella Lau, So.; F Elizabeth Ali, Jr.
- **OUTLOOK:** Arnold coached softball at Albany after switching over from basketball, which she coached in the 1980s. The Cougars, winless last year, have nowhere to go but up and have already won a few games, so from a won-loss standpoint, the season is already a success. Wissler and Nagakura, both 5-foot-7, are ball hawkers who will annoy opposing guards. Nagakura is the better outside shooter, but the real key is the 5-11 Martinez — there is nobody else to defend the paint and rebound. There is also nobody behind her. "If Maria gets into foul trouble," Arnold said, "We're all in trouble."

Holy Names

- **HEAD COACH:** Dennis Flannery, 11th season
- **2000-01 RECORD:** 14-14, 8-5
- **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** C Beth Costa, Sr.; C Tahiro Ikharo, Sr.

See GIRLS, Page C2

BSAL boys' hoops preview

BSAL boys hoops: following the leader

By Orlando Molina

STAFF WRITER

Finding a clear-cut favorite in the Bay Shore Athletic League won't be an easy task with several of the top teams accumulating a wealth of talent for this season.

But St. Mary's, fresh from winning last season's league, North Coast Section and state Division IV titles will be the target of choice for the rest of the field.

"All the teams are gunning for us this year," Panthers coach Jose Caraballo said.

St. Mary's will enter the season with a two-year unbeaten league streak, and if teams are hoping to knock off the Panthers, they won't go into the fray unprepared.

The Panthers return their all-state backcourt of John Sharper, Chase Moore and the Contra Costa Times player of the year, DaShawn Freeman. Freeman has just now returned after suffering a stress fracture in his right foot in late August.

But St. Joseph and Kennedy won't be pushovers, either. Both teams feature tremendous skill and leadership. The Eagles' Jay Doss leads his team in scoring and Marcel Manzanarez will spearhead the Pilots.

Salesian's John Winston will also attract plenty of attention as the Chieftains try to add cohesiveness to a talent-saturated lineup.

"We have as much talent as ever before. It all depends on how much they share the ball," Chieftains coach Jim Mellis said.

Albany

- **COACH:** Doug Kagawa, 25th season
- **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 4-22, 0-12 BSAL
- **TOP RETURNEES:** G Matt Ball, Jr.; G Danny Ho, Jr.; F Matt Hansen, Jr.
- **KEY NEWCOMERS:** C Brandon Hinchey, So.; F Garrett Stevenson Jr.; F Sam Laird, Jr.
- **KEY LOSSES:** C David Hernandez, G Kenny Mimoto.
- **OUTLOOK:** With a 2-8 record, which includes a 56-53 loss to Mt. Diablo, the Cougars face a hard climb back from a winless league season. The Cougars return no seniors and will have to seek leadership from juniors Ball, Ho and Hansen. "We're a couple of years in the making. The kids are trying to find their roles," said Kagawa. "We'll have to wait and see."

John Swett

- **COACH:** Jim McMillen, first season
- **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 9-17, 3-9
- **TOP RETURNEES:** G Mark Rizari Jr.
- **KEY NEWCOMERS:** G Ryan Burton So.; G Shey Saunders So.
- **KEY LOSSES:** G Mike Henley, G Mike Rizari
- **OUTLOOK:** With one returning player out of 11 on the roster, the severely inexperienced Indians have a

See BOYS, Page C2

St. Mary's takes it to St. Joe

St. Mary's opens BSAL campaign with huge win over St. Joseph

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — The St. Mary's boys basketball team wanted to make a statement Wednesday night in their Bay Shore Athletic League opener against St. Joseph. After thrashing the Pilots 90-

63, the statement rang loud and clear — the Panthers are alive and well.

"We did what we did without DaShawn," said St. Mary's coach Jose Caraballo, referring to star point guard DaShawn Freeman who has played sparingly this season because of a foot injury. "The kids came out focused. They wanted to make a statement at the beginning of league play."

Prep boys' basketball

St. Mary's	90
St. Joseph	63

St. Mary's (9-2, 1-0 BSAL) dominated from the get-go, taking an 8-0 lead to start the game and entering the second quarter with a jaw-dropping 29-9 lead.

"We didn't handle the pressure well," said St. Joseph coach Gordon Johnson, whose team fell to 11-3, 0-1 BSAL. "St. Mary's came out and played extremely hard. We panicked a little bit and didn't keep our composure."

The Panthers' press forced numerous turnovers, as St. Mary's flirted with a 20-point lead throughout the second and third quarters. The Panthers

pushed their advantage to 30 late in the fourth quarter.

"Since the trap was working, that's how we got our offense going," said St. Mary's Chase Moore, who scored 18 points.

John Sharper contributed a game-high 23 points for the Panthers while running the team well from the point guard position. Terrence Boyd backed up Sharper with 22 points.

Boyd produced four three-pointers, including a bank shot to end the first quarter.

"He killed us," Johnson said.

STANDINGS

Basketball				PREP GIRLS			
PREP BOYS				Bay Shore Athletic League			
Bay Shore Athletic League	W	L	GB	Holy Names	W	L	GB
Albany	1	0	—	John Swett	1	0	—
Kennedy	1	0	—	Kennedy	1	0	—
St. Mary's	1	0	—	St. Mary's	1	0	—
Piedmont	0	0	½	St. Elizabeth	0	0	½
Salesian	0	0	½	Salesian	0	0	½
St. Elizabeth	0	0	½	Albany	0	1	1
John Swett	0	1	1	Piedmont	0	1	1
St. Joseph	0	1	1	St. Joseph	0	1	1
St. Patrick	0	1	1	St. Patrick	0	1	1
Wednesday's results				Wednesday's results			
St. Mary's 90, St. Joseph 63				St. Mary's 58, St. Joseph 34			
Kennedy 63, St. Patrick 60				John Swett 51, Albany 46			
Albany 52, John Swett 44				Holy Names 54, Piedmont 38			

Girls

FROM PAGE C1

G Mawudi Ladzekpo, Jr.; G Johana Padilla, Jr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** F Junai Dawson, So.; F Nicole Thompson, So.; G Courtney[al] Price, Jr.; G Shannon Gaspy, So.; G Patti Archer, So.; G Geneva Miller, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Terri Archer, F Sherrisa Bailey, G Katie Kaso, C Alessandra Albizzio
■ **OUTLOOK:** Despite suffering graduation losses, Flannery likes this team as it has what he prizes — versatility. All his returners can play various positions and with the 5-9 Dawson up from the junior varsity, the Monarchs have a little size. Scoring has revolved around Ikharo, Ladzekpo and Padilla. The Monarchs never quit and only size and talent can beat them. Few teams in the BSAL have both.

John Swett

■ **HEAD COACH:** Jeff Lee, first season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 10-16, 5-8
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** C Adriana Silver, Sr.; G Michelle Taniguchi, Sr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** F Nicol Byrne, Jr.; F Allie Johnson, Jr.; G Simone Sonia, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F Claudia Williams, C Ashley George, G Medaya Crowder
■ **OUTLOOK:** The Indians aren't looking for much, just enough to finish as the best among the bottom four teams in the league," according to first-year coach Lee. Only senior center Adriana Silva and guard Michelle Taniguchi return as the Indians lost all-league center Ashley George to graduation and guard Crowder, who transferred to Will C. Wood-Valacille to be closer to home. "It's growing pains," Lee said. "We are just inexperienced."

Kennedy

■ **HEAD CO-COACHES:** Allen Moore III, Harry Campbell, Tim Alexander, third season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 24-5, 13-0
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** C Daidra Chatman, Sr.; F Rashonda Ambercrombia, Jr.; C Crystal Thomsen, Jr.; G Gernay Montgomery, Sr.; G Ashley Sims, Sr.; G Wiloni Robertson, Sr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** G Ki-mara Randle, Sr.; Marissa Holbert, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Shantel Wesley, F Shannon Turner, F Janeka Jackson, C Melinee Stewart
■ **OUTLOOK:** To those who think the Eagles are just Chatman and four innocent bystanders, guess again. Chatman, who averaged 12.9 points and 14 rebounds a game last season, is honing her game for her ACC debut next year, but there is a little matter of another BSAL title to attain. She and her teammates should get it. The Eagles didn't lose much to graduation and have guards Thomsen, Montgomery and forward Ambercrombia to

provide the drives, outside shooting and passes inside to you-know-who.

Piedmont

■ **HEAD COACH:** Leroy Hurt, second season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 20-10, 12-1
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** G Ali Flato, Sr.; G Karen Quan, Sr.; G Rachel Winograd, Sr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** F Jennifer Quan, So.; C Amara Reddick, So.; F Logan Rawlings, So.; F Katie Hilton, Sr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Marisa Lindquist, C Katie Leahy, C Marisa Leahy, F Gina Phelps, F Julia Parrish, G Pam Bajada, G Liz Bowling, G Amanda Richardson
■ **OUTLOOK:** This is a young, young team, but one that is not without talent. The team ended its preseason schedule at 5-5, which means it has more than just Ali Flato, who leads the Highlanders in just about every category. Newcomers Jennifer Quan, Logan Rawlings and Amara Reddick all have raw talent. No team lost more than the Highlanders to graduation.

St. Elizabeth

■ **HEAD COACH:** Dwayne Hornage, second season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 14-13, 6-7 BSAL
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** G Tracy-Hazel Rosalio, Jr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** G Lantanzia Brooks, Jr.; C Samiyah Fassetto, So.; F Gabby Wilson, So.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Toya Paul, G Stefané Haynes, F Nicole Hornage
■ **OUTLOOK:** Definitely a rebuilding year for the Mustangs, as their 2-11 preleague mark attests. Too many (player) losses, not enough experience. Brooks has played well, but the loss of three starters from last year has hurt. Rosalio has some talent but it is, and will continue to be, a tough season in Oakland.

St. Joseph Notre Dame

■ **HEAD COACH:** Steve Arlett, sixth season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 6-17, 1-12
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** F Leliani Wagner, Sr.; C Christina Blackwood, Sr.; F Jennifer Fox, Sr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** G Becky Alfonso, Jr.; G Princess Tacorda, So.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G/F Jenny Letzt; G/F Julie Freccero; G Angelica Jones
■ **OUTLOOK:** Arlett is buoyed by the club's work ethic, noting, "I'm pretty optimistic of their game; they work hard." He is also buoyed by some of his younger players, most notably Alfonso, who is comfortable shooting the 3-pointer, and by the rebounding of seniors Blackwood and Fox.

St. Mary's

■ **HEAD COACH:** Donnie Lawson, sixth season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 13-14, 6-7
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** G Meghan Leary, Jr.; C Kamaiya Warren, Sr.; F Heidi Spurgeon, Sr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** G Nataeh

Frapp, Fr.; F Shantrell Sneed, Fr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F Chante Cain, G Courtney Carey, F Amy Brennick
■ **OUTLOOK:** After finishing in the middle of the pack last year, the Panthers are poised to make a run for the playoffs. Two-time all-league center Warren, at 6-0, holds down the middle. A two-time state shot and discus participant, Warren can hold her own in the paint. Sneed, a 5-10 freshman forward, is averaging 18 points a game. Leary, a junior point guard, is averaging 12 points.

St. Patrick

■ **HEAD COACH:** Rodney Faucett, sixth season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 13-12, 6-7
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** F Mindi Martinez, Sr.; G Brittany Adkins-Williams, Sr.; F Erika Vigil, Sr.; G Marian Murphy, So.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** F Stephisha Walton, Fr.; F Ashley Reed, Fr.; C Bobbi Hovay, Fr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** C Stacey Stewart
■ **OUTLOOK:** The Bruins could be the surprise team of the league. Faucett describes Walton, averaging 18 points and 9.5 rebounds a game, as a "phenom." Martinez is in her fourth year on varsity and is averaging 12 points and eight rebounds a game. When it comes to the BSAL, Faucett says he knows "what everybody's got." Question is, do others know what the Bruins have?

Salesian

■ **HEAD COACH:** Steven Cuevas, sixth season
■ **2000-01 RECORD:** 20-10, 8-5
■ **TOP RETURNING PLAYERS:** C Imani Dhababu, Jr.; G Ashley Martin, Jr.; G Karrah Thomas, Jr.
■ **TOP NEWCOMERS:** F Chandra Johnson, So.; F Kelsea Wilks, So.; F Leslie Brown, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Adriana Dominguez, F Vanessa Martinez, F Kim Rock, G Nana McGee, G Evangeline Black
■ **OUTLOOK:** The Chieftains are a persnickety type of team, not one to dominate anyone, but always around at the finish. Salesian will miss Adriana Dominguez' 17 points a game and Kim Rock's 12, but Salesian still has Dhababu, who may be the best center in the league not named Chatman. She averaged 12 points a game as a 6-1 sophomore. Now she's a junior and a leader. Newcomers Johnson and Wilks have shown flashes as the Chieftains have compiled a 7-4 record. "We should do well in league," Cuevas said, "if we stay healthy and out of foul trouble."

Predicted Order of Finish

1. Kennedy
2. Salesian
3. St. Mary's
4. Holy Names
5. St. Joseph Notre Dame
6. St. Patrick/St. Vincent
7. Piedmont
8. Albany
9. John Swett
10. St. Elizabeth

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

long way to go before becoming contenders in the BSAL. Knowing this, McMillan said that there will be some humbling moments for his team as his players gain valuable playing time during this rebuilding year. On a positive note, he added that the Indians have displayed a consistent level of quickness despite a mediocre start and turning the ball over at an alarming rate.

Kennedy

■ **COACH:** David Manson, third season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 19-11, 8-4
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** G Jay Doss, Sr.; G Devon Peal, Jr.; F/G, G Cameron Taylor, Sr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** C Leland Mapp, Sr.; G Norville Taylor, So.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** C/F Zak Slende-brook, C/F David Hagans-Dixon, G/F DeAndre Thompson, G Herman Gipson
■ **OUTLOOK:** The Eagles lost eight seniors from last season's team, which reached the second round of NCS Division III playoffs. Despite the loss of senior experience, Manson is confident he has enough skill in veterans Doss, Peal and Cameron Taylor and in new players Norville Taylor and the 6-foot-5-inch Mapp, to put together a contender. "We have the talent to go to state. This team wants to make a name for itself," he said.

Piedmont

■ **COACH:** Chris Lavdiotis, first season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 5-21, 2-9
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** F Mac Scott, Sr.; F Dave Bucco, Sr.; F Isaac Puglia, Sr.; F Dennis Guiney, Sr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** G Eric Flato, So.; G Paul Griego, Jr.; G Eric Shuster, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F Michael Stock, G Jack Dresnick, G Tim Browne
■ **OUTLOOK:** Featuring a roster of 11 seniors with something to prove, the Highlanders are looking to drastically improve on last season's 2-9 league record and turn a few heads with a strong run at a NCS Division IV crown. "This year we're competitive and the kids believe it," Lavdiotis said. The team lacks size, however, forcing Lavdiotis to switch to a fast-break offense compared to the methodical approach of a season ago.

St. Elizabeth

■ **COACH:** Bob Howard, 26th season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 23-12, 7-4
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** F Miguel Daggis, Jr.; G Tony Delson, Sr.; G Jules Miller, Jr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** G Alex Edwards, So.; G Marcos Perez, Jr.; G Guvris Phillips, Jr.; F/C Joe LaChaux, So.; F/C Charles Dunn, Jr.

■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Bakari Altheimer, G Alejandro Nuno, G Scott Greene, F Adebola Odunikan
■ **OUTLOOK:** Returning just one starter from last season, the Mustangs hope their young talent can overcome inexperience to fill the huge gap left by former star guard Altheimer. The Mustangs are not off to a great start, but Howard is optimistic and has his sights set high for his young team. "We want to make the playoffs, but we're not near that right now," he said. "We're not doing the little things good teams do to win."

St. Joseph

■ **COACH:** Gordon Johnson, sixth year
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 15-13, 6-5
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** C Kevin Navau, Jr.; G Marcel Manzanarez, Jr.; G Jeff Fuller, Sr.; F Ari Warmerdam, Sr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** F David Dupart, Jr.; G Jon Marcado, So.; G Lorenzo Hutton Jr.; F Ronald Lewis, So.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** G Donovan Brewer, F Brandon Quick, G Ryan Fabio
■ **OUTLOOK:** According to Johnson, the Pilots did not suffer any key losses from last year and should prosper from a deep bench. "There's no stronger team in the area in regards to depth," said Johnson. Warmerdam returns to the lineup after suffering a season-ending thigh injury last year and should add punch to an offense that averages 60 points per game.

St. Mary's

■ **COACH:** Jose Caraballo, seventh season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 31-4, 11-0
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** G DaShawn Freeman, Sr.; G John Sharper, Sr.; G Chase Moore, Sr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** C/F Larry Gurganious, Fr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F Lorenzo Alexander, F Jeremiah Fielder
■ **OUTLOOK:** Returning their all-state backcourt of Freeman, Sharper and Moore, the Panthers are primed for another run at a BSAL title. But Freeman, last season's Contra Costa Times player of the year, won't be available until early January due to a stress fracture of his right foot suffered in August. Despite the injury, coach Caraballo doesn't think it will

take Freeman very long to get back the swing of things when he returns.

St. Patrick

■ **COACH:** Andrew Strawbridge, fourth season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 9-15
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** G Vinny Buehler, Sr.; G Jose Bacaltos, Sr.; Jonathan Wilson, Jr.
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** G Carlo Umadtag, Jr.; F Joey Egidio, Jr.; Brandon Kitchan, Jr.; G J.R. Phoe
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F E.J. Guzman Madison Butts, G Mel Guillermo
■ **OUTLOOK:** Having lost an all-star in Butts to Vallejo and another threat Guillermo to a torn ACL, the Bruins will assess their situation game at a time according to Strawbridge. "We don't want to set long term goals," he said. Guillermo is likely out for the year which leaves Bacaltos to step up as the outside threat and Buehler as a team leader.

Salesian

■ **COACH:** Jim Mellis, fourth season
■ **LAST YEAR'S RECORD:** 25-7, 11-3
■ **TOP RETURNEES:** G John Watson, Jr.; G Brandon James, Sr.; Russ Murray, Jr.; C Derek Payne
■ **KEY NEWCOMERS:** F Jeremy Owens-Murray, Jr.
■ **KEY LOSSES:** F David Jobe, Marcus Richardson
■ **OUTLOOK:** There's no shortage of talent as far as the Chieftains are concerned according to Mellis. But the big question is whether his group will prove cohesively as they battle for top spot in the BSAL. The team has already collected big wins over Oakland and St. Francis. And assuming the Chieftains can make it into play, the shift of St. Mary's from Division IV to Division I gives Salesian one less team to worry about as it strives for a section title.

Predicted Order of Finish

1. St. Mary's
2. St. Joseph
3. Salesian
4. Kennedy
5. St. Elizabeth
6. Piedmont
7. St. Patrick
8. Albany
9. John Swett

SCOREBOARD

Basketball									
St. Mary's 90, St. Joseph 63									
ST. JOSEPH (11-3, 0-1 BSAL)									
An Warmerdam 3 0-0, Cameron Quick 2 1-2, 5, Marcel Manzanarez 2 1-3, Jeff Fuller 0 1-1, Eric Wright 2 1-5, Murphy Holmes 3 0-0, Loren Leon 0 1-2, Anthony Meadows 0 2-2, Kevin Navau 3 3-5, Jon Marcado 0 2-2, Lorenzo Hutton 1 2-2, David Dupart 3 1-2, Ronald Lewis 0 1-2, Tr Carson 2 2-6, Marcel Williams 0 0-0, Totals 21 18-35 63									
ST. MARY'S (9-2, 1-0)									
Tennese Boyd 8 2-2, Tim Fanning 1 0-0, John Sharper 6 4-4, 23, Chase Moore 8 2-5, Simon Knight 3 0-0, Larry Gurganious 3 1-2, Chris Morozzo 2 0-2, Spartacus Rodriguez 3 1-3, Fred Hivas 0 0-0, Totals 36 10-18 90									
St. Joseph 9 0 17 18 21 — 63									
St. Mary's 28 18 18 25 — 90									
3-point goals: Boyd 4, Sharper 3, Holmes 2, Warmerdam, Gurganious.									
Kennedy 63, St. Patrick 60									
ST. PATRICK (8-1 BSAL)									
John Wilson 6 4-4, 16, Joey Bacaltos 3 4-4, 12, Joey Egidio 2 1-4, 5, Vinny Buehler 10 6-8, 26, Carlo Umadtag 0 1-2, 1, Brandon Kitchan 0 0-0, Jamie Domingo 0 0-0, Alex Munoz 0 0-0, Totals 21 16-22 60									
KENNEDY (7-7, 1-0 BSAL)									
Sean Battlinger 2 0-0, 4, Evelyn Peal 9 2-4, 20, Leland Mapp 7 1-2, 15, Joshua Dotzler 2 0-0, Brandon Paige 0 0-0, Jay Doss 5 3-3, 15, Joe Washington 1 0-0, 2, Cameron Taylor 1 0-0, 2, Totals 27 6-8 63									
St. Patrick 14 18 18 60									
Kennedy 22 8 18 17 — 63									
3-point goals: Bacaltos 2, Doss 2, Dotzler Technical foul Taylor									
Albany 52, John Swett 44									
JOHN SWETT (2-1, 0-1 BSAL)									
Jeremy Morton 0 0-0, Ryan Burton 2 3-4, 7, Laulie Melroy 2 1-2, 5, Mark Ritzum 3 2-3, 9, Abe Daloni 2 2-2, Bryce Watson 1 0-0, Kyle Boltzer 7 0-0, 14, Totals 17 8-11 44									
ALBANY (0-10, 1-0)									
Darny Ho 2-2, 15, Matt Ball 0 0-0, Ted Pickens 0 0-0, Sam Laird 4-2, 12, Garrett Stevenson 0 0-0, Doug Fisch 0 0-0, Eric Luangrath 0 1-2, 1, Eddie Izumizaki 2 0-0, 4, Brandon Henche 3 0-0, 6, Darrell Joyner 2 1-1, 5, Matt Hansen 4 0-0, 9, Totals 21 6-11 52									
John Swett 14 9 14 7 — 44									
Albany 20 8 12 12 — 52									
3-point goals: Ritzum, Daloni, Laird 2, Ho, Hansen Fouled out: Ritzum									

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0 0, Sam Laird 4-2, 12, Garrett Stevenson 0 0-0, Doug Fisch 0 0-0, Eric Luangrath 0 1-2, 1, Eddie Izumizaki 2 0-0, 4, Brandon Henche 3 0-0, 6, Darrell Joyner 2 1-1, 5, Matt Hansen 4 0-0, 9, Totals 21 6-11 52

John Swett 14 9 14 7 — 44
Albany 20 8 12 12 — 52

3-point goals: Ritzum, Daloni, Laird 2, Ho, Hansen Fouled out: Ritzum

MANNIE JACKSON PRESENTS

THE ORIGINAL

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

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Mad Skills!

Appearing at

Oakland Arena

Friday, Jan. 25 at 7:00 p.m.

HEY KIDS! AGES 6 - 12: HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A JR. GLOBETROTTER!

The Contra Costa Newspapers and Hills Newspapers are bringing the world's greatest basketball show — the Harlem Globetrotters — to the Oakland Arena on Friday, January 25!

We're looking for one boy and one girl, ages 6-12 to be Jr. Globetrotters for the game (and two runner-ups!).

Winners will receive 4 tickets to the game, a T-shirt, plus the chance to meet the Globetrotters in person! Winners will be introduced to the audience by the announcers, and the top two winners will receive autographed balls and sit on the bench with the team. Winners will be chosen by a random drawing. All you have to do is correctly answer the questions below, in the form and send this sheet to the address below.

Public Meeting Notice
Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District
Redistricting

The AC Transit District is undergoing redistricting! Redistricting is the redrawing of ward and district boundaries to equalize the population within each ward of the district and to ensure equal voter representation, which is why it is very important that you participate.

This process directly affects your community. If you want to help determine what the redrawn boundaries look like, please attend one of the following meetings.

* Meetings may be extended in an effort to acknowledge all public input/comment

Meeting Dates & Locations

Thursday, January 10
6:30-8:00 p.m.
El Cerrito Senior Center
6500 Stockton
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Served by:
AC Transit lines: 72, 73, 67, L, LC

Thursday, January 24
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Las Bougainvillias
1223 37th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601
Served by:
AC Transit lines: 44, 47, 54, 49, 53, 62, 82, 12
BART: Fruitvale BART Station

Wednesday, January 16
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Fremont Family Resource Center
39155 Liberty Street
Fremont, CA 94538
Served by:
AC Transit lines: 212, 211

Thursday, January 31
6:30-8:00 p.m.
San Leandro Library
Dave Karp Sr. Facility
300 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
Served by:
AC Transit lines: 80, 82

* For route information, call 817-1717 or visit www.actransit.org

For more information:
Dellums, Brauer, Halterman, & Associates, LLC
1736 Franklin Street, Suite 500
Oakland, CA 94612
510-663-0936

QUESTIONS

1. The Globetrotters will be appearing in the Oakland Arena. What NBA team calls this Arena home?
2. Lots of sports fans read this paper. Some people receive the paper at home and others buy the paper at a news stand. What is the daily price of this paper? (Hint - it's close to the front of the paper!)
3. While in California the Globetrotters may decide to read this paper for the latest news and scores. While reading, they notice that Shaquille O'Neal made 13 baskets (worth 2 points each), 7 free throws (worth 1 point each) and three 3-point baskets. How many total points did he score?

Your Name _____ Age _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian _____
Acknowledging Consent _____

For eligibility entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 17, and winners will be notified by phone on January 18, 2002.

Mail to: Contra Costa Newspapers, P.O. Box 4850,
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1088

CONTRA COSTA TIMES
HILLS NEWSPAPERS
WWW.MYHILLS.COM

AMAZING

Contest Rules: 1. No purchase necessary. 2. Open to residents of Contra Costa and Hills Newspapers areas only. 3. Entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2002. 4. Winners will be chosen by a random drawing. 5. The value of the prize from game is \$150. 6. Winner's name and address must be provided to Hills Newspapers. 7. Entries must be submitted on official forms. One entry per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified. 8. Employees and the immediate families of Contra Costa and Hills Newspapers are not eligible to win. 9. The value of the prize from game is \$150. 10. Winner's name and address must be provided to Hills Newspapers. 11. Entries must be submitted on official forms. One entry per person. Multiple entries will be disqualified. 12. Employees and the immediate families of Contra Costa and Hills Newspapers are not eligible to win. 13. The value of the prize from game is \$150. 14. Winner's name and address must be provided to Hills Newspapers. 15. 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Arts



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

TV, radio hall
of shame fills
overflowing

2001: So much bad TV and radio. Where, oh where, to begin with our annual Worst of the Year selections in broadcasting?

Worst Network/Cable Series: "Fear Factor" (NBC): The network execs struck paydirt this year with this deplorable show putting its host in pits of rats and snakes, making them eat rendering-plant byproducts. Coming soon: A "very special" Playmate "Fear Factor" during Super Bowl halftime!

"Weakest Link" (NBC): The host of this dim-witted insult-a-thon, Ann Robinson, actually looks like a real human on NBC talk shows I've seen, not a caricature. Jeez, you think maybe her ridiculous dominatrix shtick is only an act?

"Three Sisters" (NBC): The no-longer-proud Peacock network gets the hat trick with this grating, witless alleged comedy. "Chains of Love" (UPN): This morose "reality series," unfortunately, disappeared faster than a dotcom company's cash. Locksmith's worst nightmare. "WWF Smackdown" (UPN): "WWF Raw" (TNN): Too bad that at some point in recent times, the bottom of the barrel became "entertainment."

"Providence" (NBC): It must be an act of providence that's kept this mediocre series from cancellation. "Spin City" (ABC): An awful show got even worse after Michael J. Fox's departure. "Ally McBeal" (Fox): Almost as juvenile as "South Park," but not half as creative as its stars think.

"The View" (ABC): How producers managed to find other women as annoying and as self-important as Barbara Walters is anybody's guess. Joy Behar makes Walters almost palatable by comparison. "Temptation Island" (Fox): Word is that some of these shallow, flirtatious couples get married. There goes the gene pool. Dishonorable Mention: "Jerry Springer," "Sally Jesse," "Crossing Over," "Jenny Jones," "Ricki Lake," "To Tell the Truth" (all are syndicated daytime drivel).

Homers of the Year: Fox's sportscasters, who lionized the Yankees and slighted the A's repeatedly throughout their playoff series. "Disgrace to Local Broadcasting (TV Division):" KPX-TV, for putting two weekday infomercials of the salacious "Fifth Wheel" on right after school. This vulgar dating-show disaster was quickly yanked.

Disgrace to Local Broadcasting (Radio Division): Talent-impaired afternoon talk show host Michael Savage (KSFO Radio), who will do anything to get attention/ratings. He holds the perpetual trophy. **Worst TV Pitchperson:** That ultra-annoying redhead in that ubiquitous Mervyn's ads. **Worst Radio Pitchperson:** K-Niner Bubba Paris, selling a pet supplement. **Worst TV Ads:** The Carl's Jr. spots featuring boorish and oblivious young people and the sticker, "Don't bother me. I'm eating."

Worst Local TV Station: KPX, only partly because of the "Fifth Wheel" fiasco. Its newscasts often lack amateurism and low-budget (what they're not), and its "Evening Magazine" is a dismaying waste of time. **Worst Local Radio Station of the Year:** Fast-fading KNBR, which, besides running the highest commercial load in the Bay Area, is so cheap it's begun re-running "Giants" games at midnight. And when the popular Gary Radnich's morning show moves back to 30 a.m. Monday, KNBR's trust is replacing him with an unlistenable and smarmy John London, formerly half of the MEC's puerile "Morning Zoo."



MARK TILLIE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

AN OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE of actors in Robert Altman's "Gosford Park" includes Kristin Scott Thomas as Lady Sylvia, and Ryan Phillippe as a Scottish valet.

'Gosford Park' has a winning formula

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

There are no tutus or tights in Robert Altman's comic drama "Gosford Park," but make no mistake, this is ballet on film. Every aspect of it, from its ultimate-ensemble cast to the meticulous re-creation of the stale England of years gone by, could have been treacherous, but instead emerges triumphant, spinning together as elegantly as a stage full of dancers en pointe moving in unbelievable unison.

Altman hasn't been this good in years — no, in nearly a decade ("Short Cuts"). His camera dips, whirls and races along, masterfully interweaving two worlds, the moneyed upstairs of Sir William McCordle's (Michael Gambon) country estate, Gosford Park, and the still respectful but increasingly resentful downstairs.

Sir William is hosting a weekend party for his friends, family and enemies, the kind of lively frolic we recognize from Agatha Christie but which, given the era (1932), will soon be a thing of the past. The ladies come with maids, cigarette holders and stunning gowns that fall in silken folds to the floor, but societal ruin is afoot in the form of man-made lace.

Below stairs, the servants are still brisily addressed by their employer's surnames, but again, ruin is afoot, this time in the form of illicit inter-class sex acts performed in the pantry. In these changing times, the lone American in the group, a movie producer named Morris Weissman (Bob Balaban) researching English country estates for his next picture, "Charlie Chan in London" (which really was made in the '30s), even dares to be, of all things, a vegetarian.

There's a murder mystery amid all the comings and goings of guests and servants, but this isn't a game of Clue, in that no one really cares who plunged the

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Gosford Park"

■ **STARRING:** Eileen Atkins, Bob Balaban, Alan Bates, Charles Dance, Stephen Fry, Michael Gambon, Richard E. Grant, Tom Hollander, Derek Jacobi, Kelly Macdonald, Helen Mirren, Jeremy Northam, Clive Owen, Ryan Phillippe, Maggie Smith, Kristen Scott Thomas, Emily Watson, James Wilby

■ **RATING:** R (some language and brief sexuality)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 17 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at the Albany and the Piedmont theaters, and in San Francisco at the AMC 100 Van Ness and the Metreon

■ **GRADE:** A

knife into the victim's chest. No one really mourns for the victim, either. The murder is no more than a construct Altman and screenwriter Julian Fellowes use to keep all the players inside the estate as long as possible. Mysteries are solved, but they are more about identity than anything else.

The ensemble cast is so littered with amazing actors that it's impossible to do them all justice. They whirl by, so inhabiting their period costumes and hairstyles that you'll find yourself in a daze, wondering was that Alan Bates playing the butler, could that be "Upstairs/Downstairs" creator and all-around magnificent actress Eileen Atkins playing the cook and did Ryan Phillippe really score a role in an Altman film as a Scottish valet? (The answers are yes, yes and yes, and he's actually good.)

That said, at least a few of these actors and actresses have to be recognized individually. You can't take your eyes off Emily Watson as Elsie, the head

Helen Mirren so thoroughly entrenches herself in the role of the secretive, imperious housekeeper Mrs. Wilson that you forget every other part she's ever played.

housemaid who is having an affair with someone upstairs. She languidly chain-smokes, relishes her relatively high position within the household, but pretends to not give a fig for anything or anyone. It's she who wonders "Why do we spend our lives living through them?" before setting off on an entirely new tangent for herself.

Helen Mirren so thoroughly entrenches herself in the role of the secretive, imperious housekeeper Mrs. Wilson that you forget every other part she's ever played. Clive Owen, of "Croupier," gives another smooth, sultry performance as one of the guests' valets. James Wilby makes a fine detestable society cad and Kristin Scott Thomas is hilariously brittle as Sir William's bored wife, Lady Sylvia.

But it's Maggie Smith who best takes advantage of Altman's improvisational style to shamelessly steal every scene she can. No other actress does querulous quite the way she does, and her impoverished but entitled Constance, aunt to Lady Sylvia, is perhaps the snippiest character she's ever portrayed. When Morris Weissman stops his motorcar next to hers and inquires, in his unfortunately American way, if she's "OK," she barks back "Am

I what?," appalled by the informality of his speech.

It's fitting that Smith makes Constance such a central figure, for she represents the oncoming societal changes perhaps better than any other upstairs character. She has no money, only a name. She's financially reliant on Sir William's "new money" and she's about to be cut off. Constance belongs to that dying breed of snobs without fortune and her type can't, and won't, survive in the new world order.

Weissman draws Constance's disdain throughout the movie, but her relentlessly tart tongue is often used to take swipes at her dewy young maid, Mary (Kelly Macdonald, providing the movie with much of its heart), and the celebrity guest of the weekend, Ivor Novello (the dapper Jeremy Northam).

Altman has tossed Novello, a composer and real-life matinee idol of the 1920s and '30s, into "Gosford Park's" plot as Sir William's cousin, but he paints him as a star on the wane, one who has just experienced a couple of flops. Movies are certainly far beneath Constance's dignity, but she's still enough abreast of Novello's career to sniff at him. "It must be hard to know when it's time to throw in the towel."

What's so glorious about this is that here Smith is, 50 years into her career, and she's as far from being ready to throw in the towel as you could imagine. You can tell she knows it, too; her performance is positively gleeful. As well it should be. And Altman and the rest of his team of expert dancers should be equally gleeful, because "Gosford Park" is divinely fun.

Mary Pols is the Times movie critic. She can be reached at 925-945-4741 or at mpols@ctimes.com.

Rummaging through the desk for column material



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

ONE OF THE nice things about being a human pack rat — take it from a confirmed practitioner of the art — is going through the drawer of collectibles in the desk drawer about this time every year, and deciding what to do with them.

I stash away real or imaginary theater miscues and myths, trials and tribulations as rainy-day column material. Since it's been pretty rainy lately, here are some of them.

STAGE CORPSE: Contrary to a widespread misconception, playing a dead body on stage is not an easy part. While often sought by timid husbands, badgered by wives who are in the production and don't want to drive home alone after rehearsals, the role is fraught with grave potential for disaster.

The plus of not having to learn lines is offset by the minus of the involuntary action — specifically, the uncontrollable sneeze. This has been known to upset audiences.

The director, early in the rehearsal phase, should instruct the cast to take no note of this untoward event. Under no circumstances, should a minor character — always looking for

ways to fatten his or her part — blurt out "Gesundheit!" Generally, there is a 87.4 percent chance some joker in the audience will call out the same response. This usually is good for a smattering of polite applause and laughter.

Take no heed of this. It is especially poor form for the "corpse" to smile in grateful acknowledgment.

BELLS AND SHOTS: Sound effects can be troublesome in community theaters: the phone that doesn't ring on cue, or rings when it's not supposed to; the gun that won't fire; even the low-tech knock on the door.

The aspiring actor should learn to wait for the phone to stop ringing before lifting the receiver. Few things shatter the illusion of reality like a phone still ringing while the answerer is saying into the mouthpiece, "Hello."

If you are supposed to continue with a phone conversation, and you completely go blank, do not under any circumstances hand the phone to an unsuspecting butler and ad lib, "It's for you." Friendships have been cooled by such cop-outs.

Theater legends abound with stories of the unfiring gun. After snapping the piece several times to no avail, toss it aside with a carefree flick of the wrist and reach for the nearest blunt object. For murder-mystery sets, designers might well include — as a backup — a fireplace in order to accommodate a pair of heavy andirons. Candlesticks will work in a pinch.

Faking the handgun by extending the index finger and going "POW" seldom works, and then only in deep shadow under red gels.

Answering the door before the caller knocks is another pitfall for over-eager actors who know their cues all too well, and jump on their lines to impress the director.

"That must be Uncle Willie now."

Knock, knock. This is out of sync and makes the actor appear

strangely clairvoyant. Audience members have been known to spend the rest of the evening wondering what other predictions are in store. This is enough to upset their concentration.

Prematurely opening the unknocked door carries another peril. Wait a couple of beats for the knocker to get out of sight. Otherwise, backstage horseplay with the props will be revealed, often to the dismay of those, out front. A glimpse of a stagehand, poised to knock on the door, wearing a lampshade for a hat is puzzling at best.

BEWARE FAKE HAIR: Fake beards and mustaches can cause problems, particularly if the theater company is not blessed with a wigmaster. A mustache, inexpertly applied, has the unfortunate knack of turning Dapper Dan into an oddball comic, old-time clothing-store dummy.

Applied in haste by the amateur, the mustache is likely to get some of the spirit gum stickum on the front side.

This will go unnoticed by the audience until the mustache hero gets to his big moment. He grabs his lady-love,

EVENTS

General

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility unifying all science education activities around astronomy

GALLERIES AND EXHIBITS — "Destiny of the Stars," opening Jan. 5. A look at the lives of the stars as they unfold before us in the winter sky from star birth to star death, as well as a discussion of the fate of the sun.

"Star Wars: The Art of the Starfighter," closing Jan. 6. Visitors will explore the art of filmmaking through models in this new exhibit, which includes props used in the Star Wars movies, reproductions of concept art for spacecraft and a Lucasfilm documentary video.

"Your Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technologies and featuring the Hologlobe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"Planetary Landscapes: Sculpting the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a room of swirling atmospheres, bubbling calderas and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

"Astronomy in California 1850-1950: Observatories, Telescope Makers and Their Instruments," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

"The Origin and Meaning of Meteorites," ongoing. A mural by artists Joy Day and B.E. Johnson, accompanied by a case of meteorite samples.

WEEKEND SPOTLIGHT: "Bubble Domes and Bottom's Up," Saturday and Sunday. Make your own version of the Naboo underwater settlements. Ongoing.

"SPOTLIGHT ACTIVITIES: CONSTELLATIONS" — Explore a different constellation each week and construct 3-D models of star groupings. Weekends, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 5 and Jan. 6; Andromeda Jan. 12 and Jan. 13; Perseus Jan. 19 and Jan. 20.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER COMMUNITY MISSIONS — Second Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For adults and youths age 11 and up. Limited space. \$15.

DISCOVERY CLUB — Every other Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., through May 15. An after-school workshop where children ages 5 to 7 can meet new friends, brainstorm, solve problems, design, create and explore scientific processes.

PACOT DISCOVERY MISSIONS — Through March 2. For teams of adults and children ages 11 and up. Design, build and present a proposal to NASA for a STARDUST spacecraft. \$45 per team. **ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM** — Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors in the world. **CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE.**

"Starbound: A Sky for All Seasons," through June. A journey through the stars following the earth's motion around the sun. Prominent constellations of the four seasons are featured.

"The Sky Tonight," ongoing. A look at the current stars, constellations, and planets, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Milky Way. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. "Wonders of the Milky Way." This tour of the Milk Way Galaxy, beginning with its formation billions of years ago, surveys the wonders discovered by modern astronomy.

\$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children.

TIEIN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER — A 70-foot dome-screen auditorium. Showtimes subject to change. **CALL FOR CURRENT SHOW SCHEDULE.**

"Star Wars: Episode I, The Phantom Menace," Jan. 5.

"The Living Sea." The film celebrates the beauty and importance of the ocean. Produced in association with The National Maritime Center, the Ocean Film Network and Dr. Robert Ballard. "Mysteries of Egypt" Experience the magic and mystery of Egypt by soaring over the great pyramids of Giza, cross the remote Valley of the Kings, and descend into the shadowy chambers of the sacred tomb of King Tutankhamen.

"Solarmax." Live images of the sun and footage from around the world of solar observations of the past, present, and future telling humankind's struggle to understand the sun.

"To Be An Astronaut." Venture inside the gates of NASA to experience the rigors of astronaut training.

Friday and Saturday Night Screenings: "Mysteries of Egypt," 7:30 p.m.; "The Living Sea," 8:30 p.m. \$8.75 general; \$6.50 seniors and children.

OBSERVATORY COMPLEX — Explore the night sky with refractor telescopes. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

\$8 general; \$5.50 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under; \$4 parking. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to

5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional planetarium, theater

See EVENTS, Page C5

See TUCKER, Page C5

See MANN, Page C5

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H-C Chan and Mary F. Pols; Times; Robert W. Butler, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Anthony Breznican, Christy Lemire and Tim Molloy, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Bob Strauss, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; and Gary Dowell, Tom Mastrand and Chris Vogner, Dallas Morning News.

"ALI": There are those who would argue against making any kind of movie about a documentary about Muhammad Ali because as a hero, he's too special, too treasured to replicate. They will probably resist Michael Mann's masterful "Ali," starring a beefed-up and tipical Will Smith in the title role. But if you don't already know that much about the most charismatic athlete of the century, then you will be enthralled by Mann's beautiful and impressionistic journey through a decade in Ali's life, from his triumphant and shocking 1964 defeat of then-heavyweight champ Sonny Liston to his notorious 1974 Rumble in the Jungle. — M. Pols. (R: some language and brief violence.) 2 hours, 37 minutes. A-

"AMELIE": A feel-good movie in the best possible sense, a comic fable from French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet that vibrates with joy and fast-dances with life. Amelie (the relentlessly charming Audrey Tautou) is a lonely young lady

OPENING TODAY

"GOSFORD PARK" (R)
Robert Altman assembles a large cast for this comedy-drama that's part "Upstairs Downstairs" and part Agatha Christie puzzler.

"IMPOSTOR" (PG-13)
Gary Sinise stars as a man from the future (2079 to be exact) who's on the government's most-wanted list for being, it's assumed, an alien spy.

"KANDAHAR" (NR)
Topical foreign film about a woman who journeys to Afghanistan to rescue her sister who is living under Taliban rule in Kandahar.

"PRINCESSA" (NR)
A 19-year-old Brazilian transvestite comes to Italy seeking love and a sex-change operation. Opens today at the Lumiere in S.F.

who keeps a watchful eye on the rest of the world. One day she sets out to reunite a child's treasure with its long-gone owner and discovers she likes playing emotional Robin Hood. Setting out on a path to help her neighbors and the denizens of the cafe where she works, she inadvertently trips into a love affair with a guy (Mathieu Kassovitz) who might be as sweetly eccentric as she is. Every time you think the

movie is getting too sticky-sweet, Jeanette throws something tart and funny in our path. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content.) 2 hours. A

"A BEAUTIFUL MIND": Very good by-the-book filmmaking from director Ron Howard. The film spans 47 years in the life of John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), a mathematical genius who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Doubtless the element that made Crowe want to play Nash (brilliantly, as usual) is that Nash also suffers from schizophrenia, and has for decades. Daring only in its subject matter — math and mental illness — the movie follows the careful trajectory of a classic inspirational story, occasionally veering into the medicinal, but still undeniably moving and effective. Jennifer Connelly is excellent as Nash's wife. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense thematic material, sexual content and a scene of violence.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B+

"BEHIND ENEMY LINES": A military thriller heavy on the flag-waving, but notable for its brisk action sequences and the charisma of its star, Owen Wilson. He plays an American flight navigator who gets shot down in the forests of Bosnia. While a team of nasty Serbs hunt him like a fox, fearful he'll give away the location of a mass grave, his commanding officer (Gene Hackman) tries to figure out a way to rescue him. The movie takes a rapid swan dive near the end, heading into major cheese territory, but

there's a lot of lively action along the way. — M. Pols. (PG-13: war violence and some language.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. C+

"BLACK KNIGHT": If you like Martin Lawrence's shtick, then go. Otherwise, stand in line for "Harry Potter." Lawrence tones it down as Jamal Skywalker, a vengeful Los Angeles theme park worker who ends up in the year 1328. The film can't stay the kind of family tale it purports to be: Horny princesses, beheadings, revolution, 21st-century bashing and humiliation by manure detract from the general merry-making. Lawrence does manage to convey some charm, but as the fish out of water, he can only flop around so much. — C. Chan. (PG-13: language, brief sexuality, scatological humor.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. C

"BREAD AND TULIPS": This amiable new comedy suggests that an older, better Italy of imagination, rationality and civility survives on the fringes of a modern nation obsessed with consumerism, empty prosperity and easy pleasure. That city, this film says, is Venice, and it's the location where an unhappy housewife (Licia Maglietta) blossoms, and meets a melancholy waiter. Maglietta is quite good, but the film seems a little too sentimental and pat for its own good. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: a few sexual situations.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C+

"THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS": Middle-aged executive Julie (Stockard Channing) blows a sales presentation thanks to the tardiness of twosomey assistant Paula (Julia Stiles). The subsequent plot twists lead filmmakers to poor judgments about the characters, only to throw them into serious doubt. When Julie thinks she's about to be dismissed, she is instead promoted. Julie fires Paula, but then meets her in a hotel bar and tries to apologize. A one-night power struggle between the two unfolds in the business-class captivity of airport and hotel environments. Writer-director Patrick Stettner lets the audience form its own conclusions about the issues he raises — gender politics, personal vs. professional choices, and the generation gap among working women. In the end, we wonder if we know the business of strangers at all. — T. Molloy. (R: violence and some sexuality.) 1 hour, 24 minutes. C+

"THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE": A brooding, somber sense of dread pervades this sharp and detailed ghost story that takes place in a lonely boarding school late in the Spanish Civil War. Like "The Others," this film is artfully made as it tells its story about a young boy who discovers that there's a snake in the garden of the school. Director Guillermo Toro knows how to tell a horror story, but he does so with heartache and a sense of history as well. — A.O. Scott. (R: scenes of sexuality and gruesome violence.) 1 hour, 46 minutes. A-

"DINNER RUSH": A small, solid ensemble piece starring Danny Aiello as a tough and proud food patriarch to two troublesome sons. Aiello owns a red-hot restaurant in New York where the cool people come to eat. One son serves up elegant cuisine, the other dishes out hardy meals. Trouble ensues when one son, a compulsive gambler, gets wrapped up in the mob. There's a murder early in the story, but that's not only a drama focuses more on talk and less on action. In this case, that's not only a good thing, but an engaging one as well. — C. Vogner. (R: language, sexual content, violence.) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B

"THE ENDURANCE": A documentary about Sir Ernest Shackleton's legendary journey to the Antarctic, based on Caroline Alexander's book. On board his ship "The Endurance," with his crew of 27, Shackleton spent one agonizing winter trapped in the ice pack, then more than a year trying to reach civilization and save his crew. The film brings the story to life and imparts a timely message about man's tenacity, his ability to survive against all odds and the loyalty inherent in true leadership. The narrative is straightforward PBS-style fare, but it is made remarkable by the use of Frank Hurley's photographs and moving footage of the journey. Don't miss this one. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 33 minutes. A-

"THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING": A soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001. New Zealand director Peter Jackson's ("Heavenly Creatures") adaptation of the first third of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" enraptures you with its dramatic storytelling and visuals and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that is also intelligent and ferociously heartfelt. Terrifying when it should be, moving when it should be, this holds true to Tolkien's vision. One of the best movies of the year. — M. Pols. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images.) 2 hours, 58 minutes. A

"HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE": Director Chris Columbus has done what fans of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the orphaned 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies — way too much music, a nip and a tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. How you'll feel about this picture if you're not already in Harry's thrall is an entirely different question, one we're not ashamed

to admit we can't answer. — M. (PG: some scary moments and language.) 2 hours, 32 minutes.

"HOW HIGH": The marijuana cop is back in this direct descendant Cheech & Chong flicks like "Up Smoke" and "Nice Dreams." It's a comedy, though, making the most positively sophisticated. Redman and Method Man star as guys from the hood who stumble across some magical weed that takes them to ace their college papers, earn and land scholarships to Harvard. Most of the jokes are of the "I am explicit-exclude-insult variety." "High," which looks quick and off the directorial debut of Jesse G. Bob's son. — R. Butler. (R: language, drug use, brief nudity.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. A-

"IN THE BEDROOM": A beautiful, directed, written and acted movie about guilt, blame and loss, a small seaside town in Maine. Spacek and Tom Wilkinson star as parents whose lives change when a son (Nick Stahl) gets involved in a tentatively dangerous relationship. Spacek will almost certainly get an Oscar nomination for her understated, powerful performance, and first director Todd Field has made a film for himself. Bleak, but one of the year's best. — M. Pols. (R: some violence and language.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. A

"IRON MONKEY": A new sound and gigantic subtitles reveal the Hong Kong cult classic directed by Yuen Wo-Ping ("The Matrix" chop-choy). A "masked avenger" named Monkey (Robin Hu for you connoisseurs of literature types) robs from officials and gives to poor people. Late-19th-century Chekiang. A great sweep happens to pull in folk here Wong Kei Yung (Donnie Yen) and Son Wong Fei Hung (played by an amazing girl, Sze-Man Tsang). He forced to play bounty hunter whose son is held captive. Good guys fight one another for long, so a guy is tossed in. The film is not as there's a gossamer action and a comedy elevated by flabbergasting martial arts, and how can we resist a magic fight about flaming poles? — Chan. (PG-13: martial arts action, violence and brief sexuality.) 1 hour, 15 minutes. B

"JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS": Brainy 10-year-old Jimmy gets his into plenty of hot water with his inventions like shrink rays and robots. But when all the grown-up Jimmy's hometown are kidnapped, space aliens, Jimmy and his friends must construct a homemade spaceship, fight the evil aliens and rescue their parents in time for dinner. A simple story packed with a lot of and plenty of gags for both children and parents. Jimmy's creators do remember what it was like to be

See REVIEWS, Page C

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information.

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday January 4

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
in the Bedroom (R) 6:45, 9:45
Kandahar (Not Rated) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Albany Twin

1115 Sycamore Ave., Albany 510-843-3456
Amelie (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Gosford Park (R) 1, 4, 7, 10

California Theatre

2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
Theatre Closed for Earthquake Retrofit.

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, Berkeley 510-276-5694
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Ali (R) 11:25, 12:25, 2:25, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:15, 9:45, 10:45
How High (R) 12:05, 12:45, 2:10, 2:55, 4:20, 5:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:10
Impostor (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 6:55, 9:05
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:10, 11:40, 1:10, 1:40, 3:05, 4:35, 5:10
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 3:10, 4:10, 6:05, 7:8, 9:40, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:20, 1:35, 3:55, 6:20
Not Another Teen Movie (R) 7:25, 10:30
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:15, 4:55, 7:55, 10:35
Vanilla Sky (R) 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25

Century 25 Union City

32100 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 12:55, 2:40, 4:30, 7:10, 8:25, 10:10, 11:15
Ali (R) 11:15, 12:25, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:5, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 8:55, 9:40, 10:30, 11:25, 12:15
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:05, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:10, 10:25
How High (R) 11:30, 12:30, 1:55, 2:50, 4:30, 5:40, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:35, 12:10
Impostor 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10, 12:15
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:30, 12:10, 12:50, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, 4:25, 5:05, 7:25
Joe Somebody (PG) 5:05, 10:35
Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 11:35, 12:45, 2:25, 3:40, 6:50, 7:55, 9:35, 12:15
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 3:10, 4:10, 5:25, 7:8, 9:10, 9:55, 10:45, 11:40
The Majestic (PG) 1, 4:20, 7:30, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:15, 12:20, 4:40, 7:05
Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:15, 12:25, 3:35, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:35, 9:25, 10:15, 12:05
Royal Tenenbaums (PG-13) 11:45, 2:55, 7:30, 10:05
Vanilla Sky (R) 12:40, 3:10, 6:20, 7:40, 9:20, 10, 10:40, 12:10

Chabot Cinema

2653 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 12, 4, 8

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyway Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
The Living Sea (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30
Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7, 30
To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10, 30

Elmwood 3

2906 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-0530
Endurance (G) 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Hotel (R) 7
Pat (PG-13) 4:30, 9:05
Mullolland Drive (R) 9
Pern Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (Not Rated) 5, 7

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
Lagrimas Negras (Not Rated) 9:15
The Source (Not Rated) 9:15

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-453-3556
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:45, 4:15, 7:30
Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 9:35
The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12, 4, 8

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-643-1320
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:45, 4, 7:15, 10:20
Ali (R) 12, 3:30, 7:05, 10:30
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:15, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25
How High (R) 12:30, 3:35, 8:05, 10:35
Impostor (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10, 9:45
Jimmy Neutron (G) 11:50, 2:15, 4:30, 7
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11, 2:45, 6:30, 9:15, 10:15
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 8, 10:40
Vanilla Sky (R) 11:45, 1:45, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45

Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-765-8000
Harry Potter (PG) 11:40, 3:10, 7:05, 10:15, 10:30

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Ali (R) 11:25, 12:25, 2:25, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:15, 9:45, 10:45
How High (R) 12:05, 12:45, 2:10, 2:55, 4:20, 5:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:10
Impostor (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 6:55, 9:05
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:10, 11:40, 1:10, 1:40, 3:05, 4:35, 5:10
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 3:10, 4:10, 6:05, 7:8, 9:40, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:20, 1:35, 3:55, 6:20
Not Another Teen Movie (R) 7:25, 10:30
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:15, 4:55, 7:55, 10:35
Vanilla Sky (R) 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25

Century 25 Union City

32100 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 12:55, 2:40, 4:30, 7:10, 8:25, 10:10, 11:15
Ali (R) 11:15, 12:25, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:5, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 8:55, 9:40, 10:30, 11:25, 12:15
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:05, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:10, 10:25
How High (R) 11:30, 12:30, 1:55, 2:50, 4:30, 5:40, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:35, 12:10
Impostor 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10, 12:15
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:30, 12:10, 12:50, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, 4:25, 5:05, 7:25
Joe Somebody (PG) 5:05, 10:35
Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 11:35, 12:45, 2:25, 3:40, 6:50, 7:55, 9:35, 12:15
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 3:10, 4:10, 5:25, 7:8, 9:10, 9:55, 10:45, 11:40
The Majestic (PG) 1, 4:20, 7:30, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:15, 12:20, 4:40, 7:05
Not Another Teen Movie (R) 11:15, 12:25, 3:35, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:35, 9:25, 10:15, 12:05
Royal Tenenbaums (PG-13) 11:45, 2:55, 7:30, 10:05
Vanilla Sky (R) 12:40, 3:10, 6:20, 7:40, 9:20, 10, 10:40, 12:10

Chabot Cinema

2653 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-582-2555
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 12, 4, 8

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyway Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
The Living Sea (Not Rated) 11:30, 3:30, 8:30
Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 1, 7, 30
To Be An Astronaut (Not Rated) 10, 30

Elmwood 3

2906 College Ave., Berkeley 510-849-0530
Endurance (G) 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Hotel (R) 7
Pat (PG-13) 4:30, 9:05
Mullolland Drive (R) 9
Pern Star: The Legend of Ron Jeremy (Not Rated) 5, 7

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
Lagrimas Negras (Not Rated) 9:15
The Source (Not Rated) 9:15

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-453-3556
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:45, 4:15, 7:30
Kate and Leopold (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:15, 9:35
The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12, 4, 8

Jack London Cinema

100 Washington, Oakland 510-643-1320
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:45, 4, 7:15, 10:20
Ali (R) 12, 3:30, 7:05, 10:30
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:15, 3:45, 7:10, 10:25
How High (R) 12:30, 3:35, 8:05, 10:35
Impostor (PG-13) 11:30, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10, 9:45
Jimmy Neutron (G) 11:50, 2:15, 4:30, 7
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11, 2:45, 6:30, 9:15, 10:15
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 8, 10:40
Vanilla Sky (R) 11:45, 1:45, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45

Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-765-8000
Harry Potter (PG) 11:40, 3:10, 7:05, 10:15, 10:30

Titles and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information.

*Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday January 4

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2

2128 Center St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
in the Bedroom (R) 6:45, 9:45
Kandahar (Not Rated) 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Albany Twin

1115 Sycamore Ave., Albany 510-843-3456
Amelie (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Gosford Park (R) 1, 4, 7, 10

California Theatre

2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
Theatre Closed for Earthquake Retrofit.

Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, Berkeley 510-276-5694
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Ali (R) 11:25, 12:25, 2:25, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:15, 9:45, 10:45
How High (R) 12:05, 12:45, 2:10, 2:55, 4:20, 5:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:10
Impostor (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 6:55, 9:05
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:10, 11:40, 1:10, 1:40, 3:05, 4:35, 5:10
The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 3:10, 4:10, 6:05, 7:8, 9:40, 10:45
Monsters, Inc. (G) 11:20, 1:35, 3:55, 6:20
Not Another Teen Movie (R) 7:25, 10:30
Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) 1:15, 4:55, 7:55, 10:35
Vanilla Sky (R) 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25

Century 25 Union City

32100 Alvarado Blvd., Union City 510-487-9593
Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 12:55, 2:40, 4:30, 7:10, 8:25, 10:10, 11:15
Ali (R) 11:15, 12:25, 1:45, 2:30, 3:15, 4:5, 5:45, 6:30, 7:15, 8:15, 8:55, 9:40, 10:30, 11:25, 12:15
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 12:05, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45, 12:10
Harry Potter (PG-13) 12:05, 3:30, 7:10, 10:25
How High (R) 11:30, 12:30, 1:55, 2:50, 4:30, 5:40, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:35, 12:10
Impostor 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10, 12:15
Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (G) 11:30, 12:10, 12:50, 1:40, 2:20, 3:40, 4:25, 5:05, 7:25
Joe Somebody (PG) 5:

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

and they've channeled those memories into a delightful movie. — G. Dowell. (G) 1 hour, 17 minutes. B+

"JOE SOMEBODY": Tim Allen plays Joe, a withdrawn, sweet-hearted wimp. His only meaningful relationship is with his 12-year-old daughter, Natalie (Hayden Panettiere). When Joe is slapped around by an office bully in front of his daughter, he sinks into an alcohol-soaked sulk. Spurred by cute co-worker Meg (Julie Bowen), Joe transforms himself and challenges the bully to a rematch. This predictable, lightweight film has some funny moments, but it's as soft-headed as it is soft-hearted. — T. Maurstad. (PG) language, mild violence. 1 hour, 34 minutes. C+

"KATE & LEOPOLD": Director James Mangold ("Copland," "Girl Interrupted") nudges comedy into this time-screwball romance with Meg Ryan as a modern ambitious marketing miss and Hugh Jackman as an inadvertently transported duke from 1876 New York. No crackling dialogue and too much chemistry binds the two—some, darned cute as they are, and that leaves too much time to brood on their inconsistencies. — V. Chan. (PG-13: brief strong language.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. C+

"K-PAX": A little bit "Cocoon," a little bit "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and a lot of Kevin Spacey being smug. He plays Prot, a wise but innocent man who claims to be an extraterrestrial from the planet K-Pax. He's so convincing that his shrink at the mental hospital, a classic movie workaholic played by the over-the-top Jeff Bridges, almost believes him. The other patients totally buy it and start eagerly going to a one-way passage back to K-Pax. Meanwhile, in the movie's most offensive moments, Prot helps them cure themselves, as if mental illness is something you can just get over. Director Jan Soffley ("Wings of the Dove") does a nice job maintaining the is-he-or-isn't-he suspense, but the picture's attempts to be profound are embarrassing. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sequence of violent images, brief language and sensuality.) 2 hours, 15 minutes. C-

"THE MAJESTIC": A "wadda ya say" movie. Wadda ya say we fix up a crumbling movie palace? Wadda ya say we reread the Constitution and remember what America stands for? It's 1951 and Jim Carrey plays a blacklisted Hollywood writer who gets a

case of amnesia and rediscovers his idealism in a small California town, where he is mistaken for a lost war hero. Cheesy, but director Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption," "The Green Mile") knows how to brew up a charming cup of schmaltz. "The Majestic" is relentlessly intent on re-creating the spirit and mood of a Frank Capra movie, but there's a germ of something genuine under all the imitation, and the movie works despite itself. — M. Pols. (PG: language and mild thematic elements.) 2 hours, 30 minutes. B-

"THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE": Ethan and Joel Coen's chilly black-and-white homage to film noir plays out like a creative lark, the kind of experimentation artists indulge in once the bills are paid. Billy Bob Thornton is fascinating to watch as a late 1940s barber who makes the mistake of blackmailing his wife's lover (James Gandolfini) to get the capital to invest in a dry cleaning business. With its fantastically cool look and dry wit, this is distinctly Coen brothers fare, but if you compare it to their best work, it feels more like an itch the brothers needed to scratch than, say, a "Fargo." Of course, with them, even an itch is going to be entertaining. — M. Pols. (R: a scene of violence.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

"MONSTERS, INC.": Thanks to the rich imaginations at the Emeryville-based animation house Pixar, small children everywhere will soon have a new perspective on the monsters they fear lurk under their beds. The genius premise here is that yes, of course monsters are real, but vulnerable. They're terrified of children, but they continue to frighten them because back in monsterland, scream power is harnessed and used as the main source of energy. The ebbing innocence of the world's children has created an energy crisis. This is a wonderful, funny story for the whole family, rich with superior animation and major heart. Voiced by John Goodman and Billy Crystal, among others. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 32 minutes. A-

"MULHOLLAND DR.": At the end of this mind-trip, all you can do is laugh. David Lynch has once again led us on a merry dance through a minefield littered with freaks, apple-pie moments we can't trust, terrifying weirdoes and puzzling, possibly pointless scenes. A beautiful amnesiac and a cheery, innocent ingenue set out to solve a mystery. Then they become different people. Chances are it's all a dream, or at least half a dream. Makes "Memento" look easy to understand. Lynch probably won't win

himself any new fans with this one, but old ones will enjoy this excursion into his creative mind. — M. Pols. (R: violence, language and some strong sexuality.) 2 hours, 28 minutes. B+

"NO MAN'S LAND": Two wounded soldiers—one a Bosnian, Ciki (Branko Djuric); the other a Serb, Nino (Rene Bitorajac)—trapped in a trench midway between opposing enemy lines, argue about which side started the war. Their power struggle is complicated when Cera (Filip Sovagovic), a compatriot of Ciki's who was presumed dead, stirs to life. His body was placed on a mine. If Cera is moved, Ciki and Nino will be killed along with him. Cera's only hope is that an expert can be found to deactivate the mine. Ciki and Nino's only hope lies in teamwork. They stagger out of the trench together waving white flags, and soon the wounded soldiers find themselves the helpless pawns of bureaucrats and media companies promoting their own agendas. Written and directed by Danis Tanovic, a documentary filmmaker, the movie presents a view of war that's grimly realistic. — S. Holden. (R: scenes of violence and some strong language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A

"NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE": This lowball comedy attempts to do with the teen movie genre what "Scary Movie" did with horror. So every character is an overdrawn stereotype, and the plot is really just a series of gags making fun of the clichés that abound in other teen movies. And don't forget the extreme gross-out jokes. And the racist humor. Stupid, offensive entertainment delivered with nothing more than a smirk is still stupid and offensive. In the end, even the title gets it wrong. This is another teen movie; it's just not another even halfway decent one. — T. Maurstad. (R: crude sexual content, language, drug use.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. F

"OCEAN'S ELEVEN": It's not what you might have hoped for from an Oscar-winning director, but Steven Soderbergh's remake of the Rat Pack classic about a casino heist in Las Vegas is pretty winning stuff. George Clooney stars as Danny Ocean, the leader of the new pack. The cast is all A-list, although some, like Julia Roberts, deliver performances more suitable to the B list. But Brad Pitt, Elliott Gould and Carl Reiner are a delight to watch, and the movie sings along with that Soderbergh style and rhythm. Keep your expectations low and you'll have a good time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B+

"PORN STAR: THE LEGEND OF

RON JEREMY": A sad but funny documentary about unlikely porn star Ron Jeremy, a short, portly Jewish boy from Brooklyn with an unfortunate amount of body hair. He's made some 1,600 porn films, but all Jeremy really wants is to be accepted by mainstream Hollywood. As unlikely as his quest is, director Scott Gill lazes the movie with so much humor that this is certainly the most surprisingly funny documentary of the year. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 19 minutes. B

"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS": There's such an ironic distance to director Wes Anderson's playful, highly stylized movie about a family of failed, alienated geniuses that it's like watching a cinematic version of the eccentric literary quarterly McSweeney's, something exquisitely crafted for maximum cleverness. What saves it from being gag-me precious is the fact that Anderson also has a tender heart to go along with his fetish for detail and eye for the absurd. Amid all the movie's mannerisms are some truisms about family that knock you for an unexpectedly emotional loop. All the performances are delightful, but Gene Hackman, as the Tenenbaums rascal of a patriarch, is unforgettable. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. A-

"RUSH HOUR 2": Peppy, unpretentious fun with a paper-thin plot. It's a rush job of a sequel. Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker are back, chasing bad guys through Hong Kong, L.A. and Las Vegas, cracking jokes all the way. Some of them fall flat, but there are still many good chuckles here. Chan, more comfortable with English now, is a gem, but director Brett Ratner blows the buzz by showing us a series of outtakes at the end that are far funnier than anything we've seen to date. — M. Pols. (PG-13 action violence, language and some sexual material.) 1 hour, 29 minutes. C+

"SHALLOW HALL": From advertisements and previews, this comedy from the Farrelly brothers seems like it must be astonishingly insulting to overweight people. But while it does plunge cheerfully into the brothers' customary tastelessness, it is also oddly sweet, soulful, and even, ages, well-intentioned. Jack Black plays shallow Hal, an average guy only attracted to women of supermodel stature. All that changes when he's hypnotized by self-help guru Anthony Robbins, who opens his eyes to the beauty of women such as Rosemary, a 300-pound Peace Corps volunteer. To Hal, Rosemary is slim, svelte Gwyneth Paltrow. The movie is sloppily shot and edited, but it's got its charms.

and the Farrellys clearly have big hearts. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language and sexual content.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. B-

"THE SHIPPING NEWS": A pretty but languid and underwhelming version of Annie Proulx's novel, directed by Lasse Hallström. Maybe we shouldn't be surprised: "The Shipping News" was a great read, but it lacked many cinematic vitals. Quocyle (Kevin Spacey, doing a fine if unexciting job) is plodding protagonist, is hardly a hero. The story is too densely packed the action too internal, Proulx's humor and poetry on the page too important. You could imagine it making a fine eight-hour series for PBS or HBO, unfolding gradually and sucking you in. Predictably, Hallström has made it all about healing. Yawn. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality and disturbing images.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B-

"SPY GAME": According to director Tony Scott's ("Top Gun") lively thriller, everyone at the CIA is a bonehead, except for Nathan Muir (Robert Redford) a leftover from the Cold War days. It's 1991, and Nathan has to play cat-and-mouse with the gang at Langley to save his protégé Tom Bishop (Brad Pitt) from certain death at the hands of the Chinese government. Those looking for major thrills will be disappointed that Nathan never wields any weapon powerful than a cell phone or a fax machine. But Redford is mighty appealing in what is his best role in years. Pitt's part as the idealistic Tom is more limited, but he's fine as well (in every sense of the word). — M. Pols. (R: language, violence and brief sexuality.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. B

"TRAINING DAY": A true drama of police corruption, "Training Day" is to be admired for reaching high toward the "Serpico" standard. But it's only two-thirds there; the other third is self-important nonsense. Denzel Washington goes way over the top as a corrupt narcotics cop showing a young trainee (an excellent, low-key Ethan Hawke) the ropes. There are many implausible plot points throughout, including the notion that a training day would last 24 hours, or include a front row seat to corruption that you'd think the cops might want to keep mum about, but director Anthony Fuqua keeps the suspense high until the bitter, bloody and ridiculous end. — M. Pols. (R: strong, brutal violence, pervasive language, drug content and brief nudity.) 2 hours. B

"VANILLA SKY": A remake of Alejandro Amenabar's intriguing but mildly silly 1997 film "Abre Los Ojos" ("Open Your Eyes") that leaves us asking, why bother? Director Cameron Crowe

is too talented to waste his time re-making a movie that hasn't even had time to gather dust on video-store shelves. Tom Cruise plays yet another well-heeled jerk in need of redemption. He's got a gorgeous, unstable model (Cameron Diaz) hanging off his sleeve, but he's suddenly drawn to another glittery prize, a frisky Spanish girl (Penelope Cruz). A car accident sets the story's crazy plot in motion, but it's hard to care much about any of this. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality and strong language.) 2 hours, 16 minutes. C

"VENGO": If you're a fan of flamenco, go. If you're indifferent to the music and dance form, you might want to reconsider this film, which wraps its story about two warring Spanish families around numerous music and dance numbers. Writer/director Tony Gatlif suitably comes up with a passionate plot that builds on tension until it's powerful if not surprising climax. The cinematography is striking, and some of the quieter moments are as effective if not more so than the larger ones. — C. Lemire. (NR: language and violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes (in Spanish with English subtitles). C+

"WAKING LIFE": A stunning animated experiment that technically knucks you out but leaves you feeling unknocked. Writer-director Richard Linklater made the movie as a live-action feature, then put the finished product into the computer and animated it. The end result is a film—essentially a meditation on life, death and dreams—that takes itself too seriously and without a real cohesive narrative to string things together. That said, the film visually is a vibrant feast for the eyes. Too bad what the characters have to say doesn't match the novel animation. — C. Lemire. (R: language and some violent images.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C+

"THE WASH": Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg are Sean and Dee Loc, blunt-smoking buddies who share an apartment where they like to entertain the ladies and play loud music. The rent is due, so Dee Loc suggests that Sean join him as a brother in suds at the local car wash. Sean soon becomes a manager and the friends' philosophies come into conflict. But when the boss gets kidnapped the fellas have to work together to save him. Character development and narrative logic are just barely hinted at, and overall, the phrase "It is what it is" has never seemed more appropriate. — C. Vognar. (R: language, nudity, sexual content, drugs, violence, bathroom humor.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C-

MOVIE PICKS

Reviews from around the nation	Contra Costa Times	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	Seattle Times
"Ali" (R)	★	★	■	▼	■	■	★
"A Beautiful Mind" (PG-13)	■	★	▼	■	■	■	■
"In the Bedroom" (R)	★	★	★	★	■	★	★
"Joe Somebody" (PG)		▼	■	▼	■	■	▼
"Kate and Leopold" (PG-13)	▼	▼	▼	■	▼	■	▼
"Lord of the Rings" (PG-13)	★	★	■	★	★	▼	■
"The Majestic" (PG)	■	▼	▼	■	▼	▼	▼
"The Shipping News" (R)	▼	■	■	▼	▼	▼	■
★ Brilliant	■ Good	▼ Weak	■ Bomb				

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

Radio Talk Hosts Who Make You Embarrassed You Ever Voted Democratic: Bernie "The Human Bullhorn" Ward and Ray "The Midnight Rambler" Taliaferro (KGO). **Radio Droneologists of the Year: National Division:** Garrison Keillor (NPR); Local: Gene "The Gasbag" Burns (KGO).

Worst Broadcast Trend: Scaling down the product and selling it at the same price to advertisers.

Red-Hot Broadcast Trend: Targeting the lowest common denominator.

Most Annoying Local TV/Radio personalities: Tie between Channel 5 forecasters Roberta Gonzales and new-comer Samantha Mohr. And they're even worse on KCBS Radio.

Dishonorable Mention: Ward, Taliaferro (KGO); "Wild 94.9's" cruel and witless morning team; Jan Wahl (KRON, KCBS); Darya Folsom (KRON); Malou Nubla (KPIX).

Worst Radio Reporter: Jennifer Jones (KGO) who sounds like she's working for the campus station at Chico State.

Worst TV Reporter: Wallis Avilar (KRON). If you can't enunciate and you're a weak reporter to boot, it must be comforting to know there's still

a job for you at Young Broadcasting.

Worst TV Anchor: KGO's Dan "White" Noyes, the Channel 7 robo-anchor whose newscast-ending benedictions are always an effective emetic.

Most Feckless TV Anchor: Wendy Tokuda (KRON). Given her constant flubbing of lines, the real mystery is: Why does she continue to get promoted?

Most Unwelcome Comeback: KNTV anchor Terilyn Joe, bounced from KGO, cooled her heels in Toronto for six months before finally swallowing a pay cut and returning to the Bay Area.

Rocket-Scientist Award: KGO Radio's degree-wielding, environmentalist-hating know-it-all, Dr. Bill Wattenberg.

Oscar Mayer Award for Biggest Hot Dog: Geraldo Rivera (CNBC).

Worst Sports-Talk Show Host: Perennial radio embarrassment Ralph Barbieri (KNBR).

The Bill O'Reilly Wannabe Award: CBS' Dan Rather has always been a shameless grandstander, but post-Sept. 11, "Gunga Dan" has striven to make CBS look more like the Fox News network with frequent on-air references to the "evil" bin Laden.

Unfunniest TV Comic: Paula Poundstone, whose legal problems caused her banishment from the awful "To Tell the Truth." Her 1990 ABC se-

ries lasted all of three episodes.

The Bambi Award: To PBS's ever-fawning Charlie Rose.

Worst Ensemble Series: NBC's amateurishly written "Saturday Night Live."

Most Overrated Series: "Friends" (NBC); "Sex & The City" (HBO).

Desperation Move of the Year: Pro-football-impaired NBC aired the embarrassing and exploitive NFL in prime time. It bombed, splattering well-deserved egg on NBC's corporate face.

Most Infuriating Gimmick: KPIX's running half a forecast on its early-evening newscasts so it can tease the main forecast.

Highest TV-Related Markups: Round Table Pizzas, whose ads are always running somewhere on the TV dial 24 hours a day.

What Is This Stuff?: Orange Magic.

Got Anything-New Award: To PBS for its "Antiques Road Show." The ubiquity of these let's-see-how-much-my-things-are-worth shows is almost enough to make you yearn for the return of "Riverdance" or John Tesh. Almost.

Most Annoying Pair: Manufactured couple Howie Long and Teri Hatcher, for Radio Shack.

Most Devalued Radio Format: Talk, in which extremists of all stripes are fea-

avoidable.

A final note: If you see the corpse's nose begin its preparatory crinkling, don't try to distract the attention of the audience by rushing to the window, looking out and exclaiming, "I do believe that's a herd of llamas in the street." People will give you a strange look for weeks.

Better let old Fred sneeze

ONGOING EXHIBITS —

"Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three-dimensional structures, make do-decagon pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

"Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiences.

"Laser: The Light Fantastic," ongoing

exhibit. Make a laser light show, work a supermarket-style laser, examine holograms and stop a laser beam barehanded.

"1492: Two Worlds of Science," ongoing exhibit. Explore European and Native American science and technology at the time of Columbus's voyage, through activities with number systems, navigation tools, map making, computer games and a replica of the rocking deck of the Nina.

ONGOING PROGRAMS — Free after museum admission.

Computer Lab, ongoing. A chance for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and above; children under age 10 accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab. In the renovated Biology Lab visitors may hold and observe gentle animals. Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

HOLT PLANETARIUM — Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted. \$2 in addition to regular museum admission. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

"Journey to the Moon." Take an imaginary trip to the moon and learn about its changing shapes. For ages 4 and up. 1 p.m.

"Constellations Tonight." Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations

for the season in the planetarium sky. For ages 8 and up. 3:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S EVENT —

"Magic School Bus Video Festival," Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Watch Ms. Frizzle take her class from outer space to inside a dog's nose in different video adventures shown on a big screen. Free popcorn and a Magic School Bus gift.

\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 5; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, University of California, Berkeley (510) 642-5132 or www.ucs.berkeley.edu

GOLDEN GATE GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY TRAVEL FILM SERIES — Indonesia, Jan. 11, 7:45 p.m. at Chabot College Performing Arts Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Indonesia, Jan. 12, 2 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland.

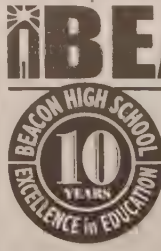
\$9 general; \$4.50 youths age 14 and under. (800) 247-GGGS.

PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE —

OPENING — "The 10th Children's International Film Festival," Jan. 6 through Feb. 17. Animated and live-action short films and features from around the world. Includes a screening of the 1924 silent version of "Peter Pan."

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Tucker

FROM PAGE C3

pulls her close, and gives her a real hard smackeroo. Nostrils flaring (curiously giving their owner the look of a fierce merry-to-round horse), our hero draws back, leaving his mustache with the sticky goop on the front firmly attached to the upper lip of the heroine.

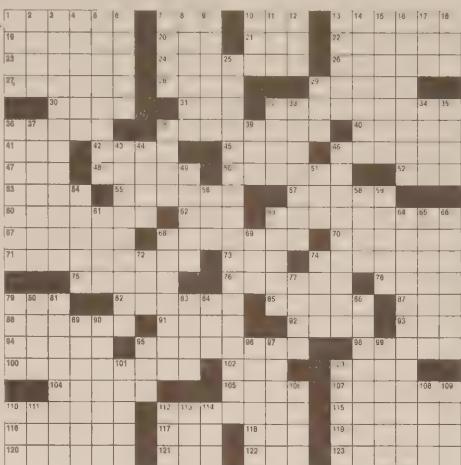
NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DROPPING THE BALL

By ELIZABETH C. GORSKI/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS
1 Where the Islamists dwell
7 Fluffy scarf
10 With 61-Down, start of a 1950 song title
13 Guy with a cool job?
19 Gomer's TV ladyfriend
20 Green lights
21 In-flight info, for short
22 House of prayer
23 "That's enough, I guess ..."
24 London resident
26 Shoot one under
27 Like some new laws
28 Cany?
29 Kind of cannonball
30 Debussy's "Clair de lune"
31 Boatload
32 Food science
36 On the ball
38 Pays back
40 Eleanor in a Beatles hit
41 Poetic dusk
42 Jazz singer James
45 Philly team
46 German cathedral city
47 Silly Putty container
48 "Lack of the Draw" singer

DOWN
2 Danny who sang "Good Time Charlie's Got the Blues"
3 Categorize
10 Math abbr.
11 Colorado native
12 Com serving
13 "Life ... a dream"
14 Mythical monster
15 Mercurial
16 Time to celebrate
17 Cuckoo
18 Born, on the society page
25 Cry heard shortly before 16-Down
29 "They'll never suspect me!"
32 Gossip fodder
33 Delivery notice?
34 Good buddy
35 Thesaurus wds.
36 Fulcrum locales
37 Quantity of data
38 Global commerce org.
39 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" crew member
43 Audiophiles' purchases
44 Relationships
46 Inhaler user
49 Puente and Jackson
51 Before adjustments, as in statistics
54 ____ Park
56 Heap
58 Means ____ end



59 Andropov and Gagarin
61 See 10-Across
63 B. & O. stop: Abbr.
64 What a celebrant may do at 16-Down
65 Suspend
66 Boiled
67 Battery opener
69 Scattered
72 Miracle ____
74 Exam for a doc-to-be
77 Blown away
79 Landlocked land
80 Son of ____
81 Celebration accessory
83 Bulls, may be produced in them
84 Bull markets
86 "No more!"
89 Exhaust
90 ____ Frel. Chilean leader succeeded by Allende
95 Marshy area
96 Thunderer
97 Domineered, with "it"
99 Red-faced?
101 Kind of rehearsal
103 Super power?
106 Georgia ed., once: Abbr.
108 Degrees for attys
109 Stock exchange
110 Half of a 1955 merger: Abbr.
111 Sellout sign
112 Model Harley, to friends
113 Fruity drink
114 George W., to George

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

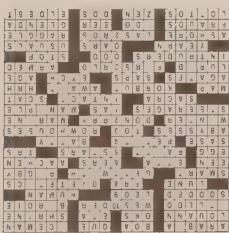
The Buddy Club children's Shows features ventriloquist, magician, juggler and escape artist Ace Miles from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, at the Berkeley JCC Auditorium, 1414 Walnut St. Tickets: \$7 general public; \$6 members of BRJCC; children under 2 free. Call 236-SHOW for information, tickets, and party reservations or visit the Web site at TheBuddyClub.com.

Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free support group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. For more information, call PediatricCare at 531-7551.

Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is located at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. For more information, call 848-0237.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.



YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, 848-6307; \$8 - \$10.

Community

The East Bay Regional Park District Police Department's volunteer Companion Dog patrol, Point Isabel Dog Owners and the Park District Public Affairs Department, present canine good citizen tests to be offered between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6 at Point Isabel Shoreline Regional Shoreline in Richmond.

The City of El Cerrito Human Relations Commission and St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church present "Building Hope for the Dream," the 13th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday, Jan. 21. The celebration begins at 10 a.m., at the El Cerrito Department of Motor Vehicles. The celebrants will then march to the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, at 11 a.m. for music, entertainment, guest speakers, and free food. Call Patricia Durham at 234-2518 for more information.

Exhibits

The Photolab Gallery, 2235 Fifth St., presents an exhibition of black and white photographs by East Bay photographer Limor Inbar-Hansen through Feb. 16. A reception is 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. Inbar-Hansen has been photographing since the early 1980s. She received the Eddie Adams Photographic Award in her first year at the New England School of Photography. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays. A reception takes place 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. For more information, call 528-2141.

Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., continues its exhibit of "Ansel Adams from the University of California Collection," through March 10. The exhibition consists of a selection of photographs and memorabilia drawn from the extensive holdings of the UC Bancroft Library. For more information, call 643-6494.

Traywick Gallery, 1316 10th St., presents sculpture by Bay Area artist Dennis Begg from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9. This

is Begg's second solo exhibition at the gallery. Showing concurrently in the gallery's back exhibition space are new works on paper by Bay Area artist Steve Briscoe. An artist reception takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, call 527-1214.

The Richmond Museum of History continues exhibits highlighting Richmond's agricultural beginnings, industrial achievements, and hometown contributions during WWII. Special exhibits and events are held throughout the year. The museum is located in the historic 1910 Carnegie Library in the Old Downtown area at the corner of 4th Street and Nevin Ave. Call 235-7387 for more information or to arrange tours.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 non-residents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Theater/Film/Dance

"Body Tales Performance," with Olivia Corson, takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Hillside Community Church, 1422 Naville St., El Cerrito. The production also includes Lysa Castro, Missy Kraemer, Pam Sims, Ann McGinnis, Susan McKearnan, Anastasia

Prentiss, Judi Williams and musician Rick Higgs. Tickets: \$10-\$20 at the door, sliding scale. No one turned away for lack of funds. For information and reservations, call 532-1020.

Central Works Theater Ensemble presents a comedy "Every Inch a King," from Jan. 11 to Feb. 2 at La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. The show was written by Gary Graves and directed by Jan Zvaifler. Times: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 5 p.m., Saturdays Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. Tickets: \$8 to \$18 sliding scale. Thursdays: Pay what you can. Free preview Jan. 10. For reservations and more information, call 558-1381.

Literary Events

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Allston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its

See CALENDAR, Page A8

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Sun, Jan 6-6:00; Mon, Jan 7-7:00
Tues, Jan 8-6:30; Wed, Jan 9-6:30

SPY GAME
Fri, Jan 4-9:15; Sat, Jan 5-3:30, 9:00
Sun, Jan 6-9:00; Mon, Jan 7-6:30
Tues, Jan 8-9:15; Wed, Jan 9-9:15

FAT GIRL
Fri, Jan 4-7:00; Sat, Jan 5-7:00
Sun, Jan 6-7:00; Mon, Jan 7-9:15
Tues, Jan 8-7:00; Wed, Jan 9-7:00
Thurs, Jan 10-7:00

MULHOLLAND DRIVE
Fri, Jan 4-9:45; Sat, Jan 5-9:45
Sun, Jan 6-9:45; Mon, Jan 7-9:45
Tues, Jan 8-9:45; Wed, Jan 9-9:45
Thurs, Jan 10-9:45

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
17 & over
Sat, Jan 5-Midnight - \$6

PIGSKIN AT THE PARKWAY
Big Screen Football
Sun, Jan 6-12 To 4 - \$2

LUMUMBA
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information obtained will
used for that purpose
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in writing. ASAP4576
12/21, 12/28, 1/4
Legal The Journal #0731
Publish December 21,
2001, January 4, 2002.

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CARNER 5000.000.000
DEED OF TRUST, UNDER
YU 19. 2006.
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OF THE NATURE OF
PROCEEDING AGAINST
CONTACT A LAWYER NOTICE
hereby given that Corina
as trustee or successor
trustee pursuant to
trust, hereby executed
Shelia Sumner-Thomas
and separate property
dated on 08/10/2006
00000107369-0 in Book
In the office of the Court
Recorder of Contra Costa
County, California, the
suant to the Notice of
the County Recorder
thereunder, record
08/11/2001 in Office - Pa
126132 of said Official R
01/12/2002 at the Cell
first entrance to the
Court Street Martinez,
to the highest bidder
for cash (payable at the
of the United States),
right, title and interest
under said Deed of Trust
said County and State
hereinafter described
said Deed of Trust
common designation,
any, of the real prop
ported to be: 5425 Can
underground, trustee
claims any liability for
ery address and othe
ery, shown herein, the
tal amount of the unde
secured by the property
estimated costs, expen
and advances at the
the Notice of Sale
cash, the Trustee will
cept a cashier's che
at bank, a check draw
union or a check draw
a state or federal sa

870 Legal Notice

ings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession

[illegible]

870 Legal Notice

firm, A Law Corporation
Recorded 03/17/1998 as
Instrument N
98-0053560-00 in book
page -- of Official Record
in the office of the Recorder
of Contra Costa County,
California, Date of Sale
01/22/2002 at 10:00 A.M.
Place of Sale. At the County
Street entrance to the
County Courthouse, 72
Court Street, (corner
Main and Court Streets)
Martinez, CA. Amount
unpaid, \$600,000.

[illegible]

870 Legal Notice

94530 If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this notice of sale. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrance to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s).

[illegible]

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Orinda, CA 94563
This business is conducted
by an individual.
/s/ Suda Paul
This statement was filed
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Contra Costa on date indicated
by file stamp above.
Business commenced on
December 11, 2001
Expires December 11,
2006
Local The Journal #0720

[illegible]

870 Legal Notice

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Oakland, CA 94611
Miriam Lieberman
14 Kerr Ave
Kensington, CA 94807
William Lowe
21 Kerr Ave
Kensington, Ca 94807
Richard J Stenquist
548 Weisley
Kensington, Ca. 94807
Carolyn Walen
73 Kensington RTd
Kensington, CA 94807
Alan Zaklin

[illegible]

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with the County Clerk
Contra Costa on date indi-
cated by file stamp above.
Business commenced on
December 11, 2001
Expires December 11,
2006
Legal The Journal #0740
Publish January 4, 11, 18
25 2002

LEGAL NOTICE

[illegible]

370 Legal Notice

You to file a Response (form 1282) at the court and serve a copy on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs if you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form.

[illegible]

370 Legal Notice

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strucciones adicionales. Di-
chas prohibiciones pueden
hacerse cumplir en cual-
quier parte de California
por cualquier agente del
orden público que las haya
recibido o que haya visto

the name and address of the court is: **County of Alameda, Superior Court**
 nombre y dirección de la corte es: **Condado de Alameda, Corte Superior**
 Main County Superior Court
 California, 94612 Civic Center Drive
 O Box 4685
 Oakland, CA 94612-4685
 The name, address and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, is: **DAE, Francis**
 El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del demandante, o del demandante sin abogado, es: **DAE, Francis**
 300 Alameda de Prado #L
 Alameda, CA 94601
 510 382-1204
 EXECUTORY CLERK
 Clerk (Actuando)
 Deputy (Designado)
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 8/01, January 4, 2002

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 alameda, please submit a
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 with a copy for your
 at the telephone
 information. Then, at
 Oak Street,
 more information,

LEGAL NOTICE

Fictitious Business Name Statements

After filing your Fictitious Business Name Statement with the County Clerk in Oakland or Martinez, you will need to publish it within 30 days of filing in a Newspaper of General Circulation in the area where your business is located. To publish a Fictitious Business Name Statement in the Alameda Journal, Montclairian, Piedmont, Berkeley Voice or El Cerrito Journal, please submit a stamped and filed copy. We will publish your notice once a week for 4 weeks, file the Proof of Publication with the County Clerk and provide you with a copy for your records. Please contact us at the telephone number below for cost information. Then, mail or deliver it to 1516 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501. For more information, call 510-748-1666

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Classifieds

Calendar

FROM PAGE C6

use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Meetings

The California Retired Teachers Association, West Contra Costa Division No. 58, meet for lunch at noon, Jan. 8, at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3200 Barrett Ave., Richmond. The program features Alma Oberst Holmgren, discussing a book she co-authored with her husband, Rod Holmgren, entitled "Outrageous Fortunes." Cost: \$10. Call 234-3046 by Jan. 4 for lunch reservations.

Berkeley Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evenings, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts hosts an informational and discussion session regarding dance opportunities in the Bay Area. The center opens its doors to the dance community and presents its plans for Dance Week 2002 and for future dance performances on the stage of Julia Morgan Theatre. The event is free. RSVP to Bridget Frederik at bridget@juliamorgan.org or by calling 845-8542, ext. 302. Visit the Web site at www.juliamorgan.org for more details.

Music

La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents Wayne Wallace Septet, composer, arranger, and trombone player, at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4. Septet returns to LaPena with music from his new CD "Echos in Blue." The CD features new Latin arrangements of Afro-

Cuban, gospel, jazz classics and R&B tunes. Admission: \$12. For more information, call 849-2568.

Trinity Chamber Concerts presents Jantine Johnson, harpsichord, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana St. The program features the music of Buxtehude, a set of variations by Pachelbel, music by Bach and a new work created by Johnson. Suggested donation: \$12 general and \$8 for students, seniors, or handicapped. No one turned away for lack of donation. Call 549-3864 for more information.

The Bay Area Recorder Series presents internationally renowned recorder performer and teacher, Geert Van Gele, in a masterclass for soloists and ensembles from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Fee: \$20 for participants and \$10 for auditors. Call 559-4670 for more information.

The Bay Area Recorder Series presents Belgian recorder virtuoso Geert Van Gele, in a solo program at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at the Northbrae Community Church, 951 The Alameda, Berkeley. The program features music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Pete Rose, Daan Maanek, and Frans Geyssen. The Bay Area Recorder Series is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society, a non-profit organization. Call 559-4670 for more information.

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Ducksan Distones, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., pre-

sents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Lalia 6555-3911.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2800 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-8370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30

a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley presents "Grief and Loss Issues Connected with Aging," from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. The Caregivers Survival Series features Patrick Arbore, noted lecturer and director of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Counseling. This hands-on presentation will be especially helpful for those working through grief and loss issues of aging and for those who are caregivers. The workshop is free, includes breakfast and parking. Registration is required. Call Alicia Shaffer at 848-6252 ex. 241.

Classes

Vieta Community College offers classes in Adventure Travel, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 17 through May 23. The course covers various kinds of adventure travel: hard adventure, soft adventure, and cultural/spiritual adventure. The curriculum includes adventure travel specials such as biking, mountaineering, overland trips, safaris, rafting, hiking, small boat and expedition-style cruising, and more. For more information, call 981-2931.

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Friday, January 4, 2002

Section D

Generation Gap: Ford Windstar is very good minivan [D4]



BOB HAGIN

new Morgan built as it was in the 1930s

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE
Fossil: 1) something (as a theory) that has become rigidly fixed
Fossil: 2) the 2002 Morgan sports car (Bob Hagin's Automotive Writings — Unpublished Edition 2002)

Not long ago we did a feature on the original and traditional parameters of a sports car as interpreted in the '50s. They included things such as no windows, rough seats, two-seats, etc. and we named a half dozen of these archaic British machines that were little known and no longer built.

We neglected a few (MG, Austin Healey, etc.) that are gone but too well-known to include.

A brand that would have fit very well into these antiquated guidelines would have been the Morgan sports car. The Morgan is still in production and it follows that same ancient concept.

The current Morgan 4/4 has virtually the same mechanical chassis as the ones I worked on in the '50s and parked side-by-side. The Morgan American would have a high time identifying the newest version from one that was built 40 years ago.

Modern high-volume car designers strive to make their prod-



VOLKSWAGEN

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA for 2002 offers two engines, with the turbocharged I4 the more powerful option.

VW Jetta goes head-to-head with other compact sedans

BY TOM HAGIN
 PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The accolades keep piling up for the Volkswagen Jetta, a small sedan that successfully goes head-to-head with the nation's volume-leading compact sedans, both foreign and domestic.

The Jetta is available in base GL, GLX and as our tester for this week, the uplevel GLS.

Outside: This latest Jetta can trace its roots back to the original Volkswagen Rabbit, which appeared here in the mid-'70s.

Its two-box design laid a foundation for the Jetta in 1980, which

in essence was a Rabbit with a trunk and four doors.

In just a few years, it became the company's best-seller, a position it still holds.

Sharing its underpinnings with the VW Golf, New Beetle and Audi's A4 and TT sportster, Jetta's smooth shape starts at its subtly protruding nose and across its short hood and rounded roofline, where it ends at a raked rear window and stubby trunk.

Save for the alloy wheels and the rectangular headlights, there was virtually no brightwork on our tester as everything else is either body-color or black trim.

TOM HAGIN
 Solo Road Test

Inside: The interior is cozy and not too busy, with logically placed controls all within easy reach.

Even the thick steering wheel feels comfortable as it perfectly accepts the curvature of the fingers.

The height-adjustable front seats cradle the body firmly and, combined with the standard tilt/telescopic steering column, create enough adjustment to tailor the fit to almost any driver.

The audio controls could be larger and more intuitive, however, and the radio's location down low in the dash seems like the wrong spot for a heavily-used device.

There's a slide-out beverage holder up high in the dash and the electric blue backlighting of Jetta's dashboard at night is a clear favorite with our testers.

Standard GLS interior items include cruise control, air conditioning, power windows, door locks and outside mirrors (which are also heated), remote keyless entry, a 60/40 split-folding and lockable rear seat back, and an AM/FM/cassette stereo.

On the Road: The Jetta GLS comes with one of two power plants.

The first, and most popular, is a 2.0-liter in-line four-cylinder engine that produces 115 horsepower and 122 pound-feet of torque.

It's a workhorse power plant that also powers one model of the New Beetle, but it's no match for what's under the hood of our test Jetta.

It carries a 1.8-liter, twin-cam, 20-valve four, and while it may be smaller in displacement, it's more powerful because it's turbocharged.

This helps it put out a healthy

See SOLO, Page D2

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Hagin

FROM PAGE 1

ucts different enough from the previous models to entice buyers away from driving an old-looking vehicle. With Morgan buyers, the attraction is to drive a car that for all intense and purposes, is a new old car.

The beginnings of the Morgan Motor Company were very much like those of Ford, Oldsmobile, Austin, and the others that were started by an individual before World War I but there was one relatively minor difference.

The first vehicle built by H.F.S. Morgan in 1910 was a lightweight, low-priced motorcycle-engined two-seater vehicle that used two wheels up front with a single driven wheel in the rear.

Since it was technically a motorcycle, it was taxed differently than an equally light four-wheeled vehicle. It was obviously cheaper to build and could be sold for less.

By the outbreak of World War I, his tiny factory was turning out 1,000 machines each year.

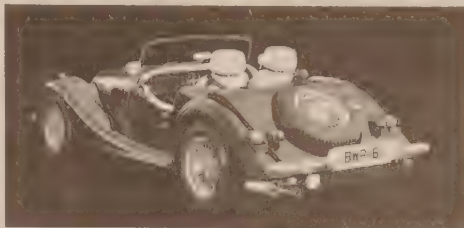
The Morgan trike had minimal weather protection but then so did its four-wheeled counterparts.

In those early days of motoring almost all cars built anywhere in the world had a solid beam axle up front to which the wheels were attached, but Morgans were equipped with a peculiar kind of independent suspension. It consisted of a sliding pillar on each side to which a stub axle was attached to carry the wheel.

Springing, such as it was, consisted of relatively small coaxial coil springs above and below the pillar and the complete system was carried on a horizontal ladder-like sub-frame mounted ahead of the radiator.

This basic type of Morgan suspension was to be found on the Plus 4 model of the '50s and '60s and is featured on Morgans made even to this day.

Morgan got into the four-wheel auto business in the mid-'30s as an alternative to his trikes. Those early



THE MORGAN of today looks just like the ones built 40 years ago with windowless doors and a spare tire on the back. The sports car is a favorite of collectors.

Morgan four-wheelers were typical sports cars of the era and emulated such classics as the Jaguar SS 100, MG T-Series, AC 16/18 Sports and other traditional British sports cars.

But while those venerable automakers are still in business today, they no longer produce two-seaters that utilize the same technical and design features as their products of 65 years ago.

The newest Morgan still has sweeping clamshell fenders up front, separate fenders in the rear, cut-down windowless doors, a short, flat windshield and a spare tire clamped to its sloping tail section.

A couple of compromises have been made to modernization over the years. In 1953 styling caught up with Morgan and the factory made some daring (for them) changes.

The headlamps were flared into the filets of the front fenders, the horseshoe-shaped grille was swept forward to the same curve as the front fenders and somewhere along the line those front fenders became skirted.

The dual vertically-mounted spare tires found in back of earlier cars were replaced by a single spare that was flared into the back of the body. But the car was still very British and very Morgan.

In the '60s, Morgans were very popular with sports car aficionados albeit rare since the production of the literally hand-crafted cars have never amounted to more than a few hundred cars per year.

The Morgan Plus 4 was a very hot contender in American sports car racing in the '60s but for serious competition, the factory produced the Super Sports model which had a lower body and a highly modified engine.

The standard Plus 4 was good for about 105 mph, but the Super Sports was good for at least 120. This was the version that made such an impression on American sports car fans in the halcyon days of amateur SCCA racing.

The wait for a new Morgan is somewhere in the neighborhood of two years with around 50 Morgan dealers worldwide, three of which are in this country.

The cars still use ash frames and steel bodies manufactured in-house while the running gear and engines are provided by other manufacturers.

Engines include a small displacement British Ford four-cylinder for the 4/4, a 4.0-liter V-8 made by Rover in the +8 and a BMW 4.4-liter twin-cam V-8 for the new Aero, a name carried over from a Morgan three-wheeler of the '20s.

Although this motorized fossil-maker is unlike other auto builders around the world, the Morgan Motor Company does share one thing with one automotive giant.

William Ford Jr, the great-grandson of Henry Ford I, heads up the Ford Motor Company and Charles Morgan is at the helm of the company his great-grandfather started 92 years ago. But there the similarity ends.

These are better shift options for performance enthusiasts

BY ROYAL FORD
THE BOSTON GLOBE

No dotting of the i's today, but a four-bagger on crossing of the t's.

As in Trickle-down Theory of Transmission Transition. And as in Trickle-up Theory of Transmission Transition.

It's hard for a lot of performance enthusiasts to accept, but it has been well documented that the manual transmission is going the way of the freewheeling option that once graced the Saab.

The manual is becoming almost a quaint niche option — in five- and six-speed formats on high-performance cars.

So what's trickling down?

And what's trickling up?

Picture this: Snowmobile meets Formula One race car.

Two of the most interesting engineering developments I encountered this year came from Audi and, just last month, Toyota.

Audi introduced a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) and Toyota brought forth a Sequential Manual Transmission.

The Audi tranny is an advanced version of what you find in snowmobiles: a transmission with an infinite number of gear ratios (CVT).

The Toyota gearbox is a version of the paddle-shift transmissions found in Formula One race cars — and expensive Porsches and Audis.

Trickle up, trickle down.

If the manual as we know it is going away, these are two fine replacements.

Toyota's SMT

Let's start with the Toyota, which has bridged the largest gap: millions of bucks to just under \$25,000. Its SMT, which gets virtually the same gasoline mileage as a manual transmission, is being offered in the MR2 Spyder, a midengine sports car likened to the Porsche Boxster but selling for half the price.

This is a true five-speed manual, but there is no clutch pedal.

And it is not one of those automatics you see that bill themselves as having a manual option but which, in fact, shift for you (and when you don't want to) through a torque converter.

An aside: these converters are hazardous to anyone who wants to push a car. I had a Buick on Pocono Raceway a couple of years ago.

I came down the backstretch of the Winston Cup track, downshifted to power through a tight entry to the road course, gave it gas and, just as I'm biting the apex and want rubber grabbing, it shifted up on me,

on its own. Bad, bad joujou.

The SMT won't do that. Other than shifting into first when you come to a complete stop, all it's up to you.

There are two ways to shift.

First is the standard stick, which operates on a plus and minus basis. Click up, click down.

Second is a set of buttons on the steering wheel labeled Up and Down. The down buttons face the driver and are operated with the thumbs. The up buttons are on the back of the wheel and are pushed with the middle or index fingers.

The wonder of this transmission is that it doesn't cripple the car's performance (we're talking a manual engine here) the way automatics often limit engines.

Downshifts are smooth and seamless. Drop third at even 75 miles per hour and the transmission flows there. Upshifts take some getting used to, keep constant pressure on the gas pedal, sense the gas so the engine doesn't over-rev.

However, it takes only a slight backing off the gas pedal, while the shift is being made, to make the shift as smooth as you want them. The smoothness is because the electronic controls modulate the throttle to match engine speed.

This system is not like those found with the dual torque-sensors. It really does have a clutch, in that this clutch is electronically controlled and hydraulically actuated.

Open the driver's door, and you can hear the engine go to work, getting ready for your shifting expedition. Drive, and your clutch action is far smoother; you could even make it with a pedal.

Audi's CVT

The Audi CVT is a different beast altogether. Whether automatic or manual, a transmission prides gear ratios that have finite ranges.

Deliver horsepower and torque to certain levels. It's time to shift. In an automatic, the transmission does the work for you. With a manual, you need a tachometer or a tuned ear to know when to shift.

Audi's CVT does away with all that. Its transmission — not unlike the belts that drive snowmobiles — is based on pulleys and a drive shaft.

In the past, the challenge for a CVT was to deliver too much torque and belts or chains would slip. But the advantage, if torque could be managed, would be that "gears" as we know them would be finite.

And so, as the great philosopher Buzz Lightyear (rewind that "Toy Story" tape and watch it) once said, "To infinity and beyond."

Audi gets you there with two sets of "variators" (Buzz would love that term) — split pulleys, each with separate, moving, convex faces — that drive a link steel belt.

The belt, rubbed on its outer edges, runs between the pulleys but doesn't engage them. The pulleys engage sprocket teeth. Instead, they're free to rotate between the pulleys.

The variators get their name because they have fixed diameters. Instead, each split pulley expands and closes depending on demand.

If the sides of the pulleys are farther apart, the resulting diameter of each pulley is shorter. Closer together means a bigger diameter.

As the sides of one pulley compress, the sides of the other open. Voila: a transmission chain shifts on a constantly changing set of pulleys and the resulting variable drive ratio. Infinity and beyond.

To the driver, this means no sense of engaging, of diminishing torque, of the engine whining it waits to be upshifted. If you drive an automatic, are no doubt familiar with your car searching for down for the right gear on long, steep climbs.

That doesn't happen with the CVT and is a good example of its beauty.

If the old manual transmission is getting scarce, at least we can look to the CVT and SMT as workhorses.

Information needed on brake fluids

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Q I'm the original owner of a 1973 Ford Camper Special with a 390 CID engine and carrying a 10-foot camper. About 10 years ago I had a complete brake job at a local shop.

The mechanic suggested that since all-wheel cylinders and the master cylinder were being replaced I might consider using DOT 5 silicone-based fluid. He said this fluid doesn't attract moisture like the usual DOT 3. That sounded good to me because even shade tree mechanics know about leaking wheel cylinders.

My concern was compatibility. He said no problem since the system will be flushed and it was compatible anyway. He said DOT 5 brake fluid is better if one is to keep the vehicle a long time.

I have no complaints about the brakes. There are no leaks and the camper stops as well as before. There's about 15,000 miles on the brake job of 10 years ago.

If DOT 5 silicone-based fluid is so great, why isn't it used extensively? The fluid in the reservoir looks a little sick. Should I let sleeping dogs lie?

J.C. Concord, Calif.

A The U.S. Department of Transportation approves three main types of brake fluid, DOT 3 and DOT 4 (glycol-based) and silicone-based DOT 5.

The first two absorb water from the atmosphere which lowers their boiling points. DOT 5 doesn't and also has a very high boiling point which means that it resists gasifying when the brakes get hot.

When brake fluid boils in the brake system from overheated brakes, it becomes compressible and the pedal pressure fades away since hydraulic systems rely on an incompressible fluid to transmit force. This is a major problem if brakes overheat going down hill. DOT 5 is not universally used since it costs more and

BOB HAGIN

Questions and Answers

the old DOT 3 or DOT 4 fluid has to be completely purged from a system for good results.

Q I have a 1988 Nissan pickup with the 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine and a standard transmission. It has 240,900 miles on it. I've been doing my own oil changes on it since I bought it in 1994.

A few weeks ago it began to use water and missed on a couple of cylinders. Water vapor came out of the tail pipe so I knew it had a blown head gasket.

I bought a shop manual on the truck and I was very careful to make sure I replaced the timing chain correctly. After I started it up, one of the cylinders was still missing.

K.K. Hillsboro, Ore.

A When you do a job on a vehicle that's as extensive as replacing a head gasket, it's best to check for any other possible problems that might be evident.

I assume you checked the valve clearances when you put it back together. If you didn't, you might have a tight valve so check their clearances.

If they're within limits, one of the valves may be burned and you can check this by doing a dynamic cylinder compression check.

Disable one cylinder at a time and see if any of them have no effect on the engine speed when their spark plugs are shorted out.

If so, follow it with a compression pressure test. Your engine may have other problems like a warped head or a crack somewhere. A cylinder head pressure test would have caught this.

Solo Road Test

FROM PAGE 1

180 horsepower and 174 pound-feet of torque, which comes on in a furious rush of acceleration.

All this power is not very noticeable down low in its rpm range, but after the turbo spools up, it thrusts the little car with authority. It is mated to a standard five-speed manual transmission that works well for driver interaction with the turbo engine.

Some of our testers complained about the five-speed's rubbery shifter, however.

Also available is an optional five-speed automatic gearbox, which takes some of the fun out of the exciting engine, but nonetheless will be a popular option.

An Anti Slip Regulation (ASR) system, which reduces wheel spin, is standard.

Behind the Wheel: Riding on a stiff unibody platform, one way to measure a car's stiffness is to slam the doors. When this is done to the Jetta, the doors slam with a reassuring thump.

Such stiffness makes for a great foundation on which to attach the suspension. In back is a simple twist-beam axle and up front are MacPherson struts.

Both ends use coil springs, gas-

pressurized shocks and anti-roll bars, which contribute to a ride that is soft and compliant, but not terribly sporting in nature.

This, however, can be corrected by ordering Jetta's optional Sport Luxury Package that adds grippier 17-inch tires and wheels for more assertive handling, but doesn't address things like stiffer shocks, springs and anti-roll bars.

Steering is handled with a rack-and-pinion system that is precise enough in most conditions although it gives commendable feedback when the wheel is cranked hard into turns.

Its four-wheel disc brakes are fitted with a standard anti-lock brak-

ing system (ABS) and an electronic brake distribution systems that can apply extra braking pressure in a panic stop.

Safety: Dual dashboard, side-impact and side curtain airbags, ABS, ASR, side-impact door beams and daytime running headlamps are standard.

Options: Sport Luxury Package (power moonroof, 17-inch wheels, cold weather package), \$2,025; five-speed automatic transmission, \$1,075; Leather Package (multi-function steering wheel, shift boot and shift knob), \$1,050; uplevel stereo, \$325; special emissions, \$100.

VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS

Suggested Retail	\$19,550
Price as Tested	\$24,675
Engine Type	DOHC 20-valve 1.8-liter 14 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	108 cld/1781 cc
Horsepower	180 @ 5,000 rpm
Torque	174 @ 5,000 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed manual
Curb Weight	3,078 pounds
Fuel Capacity	14.5 gallons
Tires	(F/R) P195/60HR15 all-season
Brakes	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/front-wheel-drive
Vehicle Type	Five-passenger/four-door
Mileage	City/highway 22/29
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GMC Envoy 4x4 has very powerful I6 engine

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Brendan: As I recall from my early days as an auto enthusiast, GMC Truck was the commercial vehicle builder for General Motors and since we've been penning this column, we've never been called upon to evaluate a GMC-branded vehicle.

There's been a Chevy Suburban clone in the GMC lineup for decades and this new GMC Envoy follows that same pattern. But it's pretty much a necessity for the Pontiac-GMC Truck division in that it gives it

BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN
Gender Gap

entry to the hot market to supplement its

passenger car lineup. Mikele: Reading over the information packet that came with the Envoy, its most spectacular

feature is the straight-six engine. From my Dad's days as a

couple that a six-cylinder car has something for sensible families whose idea of high-school sports was participation on the

fraternal debating team. And to tell the truth, I didn't know that a straight-six was

produced since the days that old '66 Dodge Dart you

drove to own. But in baring up, I've learned that this new

aluminum GM unit puts out more power for its size than the antiquated V-6 and V-8 engines

it superseded. It uses twin overhead

valves per cylinder and as I've learned, this is the first

General Motors has used this system on one of its large-

placement engines. Brendan: It has some other

features that technocrats will find interesting, too.

General Motors is an international company and if it's inappropriate to say that it plans

to build vehicles that can be sold in any market from China

to Detroit, it's a truism that it designs platforms and powerplants

that can be cheaply modified to any market niche anywhere

in the world. So this six-cylinder power-

plant can be trimmed down to four or four cylinders to fit under

hoods of yet-to-be designed sedans and trucks that fit any criteria.

As a comparison, the V-6 engine it replaces is heavier, has

more cubic inches of displacement but puts out about 10-percent less horsepower.

It's also less efficient and pollutes more.

Mikele: The engine in this Envoy is extremely quiet and I

read that in order to keep owners from trying to start an already-running engine, GMC built

in a device to disable the starting system key mechanism when the engine is idling.

The only transmission is an automatic four-speed, of course, but the 4x4 Envoys like ours utilize

GM's Autotrac system that can be left engaged even

when the driver is on pavement without fear of excessive driveline wear. Naturally, the fuel

mileage decreases in this mode. The Envoy can only be had

with four doors, but the current design is built with attention to ease of entry and exit, which

was a problem with the old GMC Jimmy SUV it replaces.

Everything is a little bit bigger in the Envoy than in the Jimmy.

The wheelbase is 6 inches longer, the body is 10 inches

longer and it's 5 inches wider. The major marketing drawback

of our Envoy is that unlike most of its competitors, it has no third-row seating.

So although the cargo-carrying capacity is outstanding, most buyers feel it's important

to be able to stuff three extras in back. Brendan: That won't be a

problem for long, Mikele. The newest catalog we got listed the

Envoy XL as an optional model. The XL body is 16 inches

longer — big enough to accommodate a third-row seat.

That should quiet us persnickety automotive journalists.

Mikele: I don't think any upgrades such as a third-row seat

will quiet you, dear. But GMC devoted a couple of

pages in its brochure to the "outdoorsy" accessories that

GMC dealers carry and can install. The neatest is a trailer hitch

system that takes skis, bikes, snow boards and the like. The

ENVOY for 2002 comes with only four doors and no third-row seat, but has lots of cargo space. It is bigger overall for easier access, however.

GMC TRUCKS

Q and A

FROM PAGE D2

of Consumer Reports which said the RAV4 was a good buy.

J.C. Phoenix, Ariz.

A Your RAV4 has a good reputation and I haven't heard of it having transmission troubles.

I'm not surprised that you couldn't find a used stick-shift version. I'm told that over 90 percent of the RAV4's sold have automatics.

Q I bought my 1998 Kia Sephia in California and took it with me when I moved to a new nursing job in Vermont. Since I got here, it's become progressively harder to start.

I found a reputable mechanic who will work on it but he hasn't been able to find the problem. I've called the Kia Hotline listed in the owner's manual but they couldn't help.

N.J. Montpelier, Vt.

A I found a factory bulletin that says the problem may be a too-thin transmission drive which defects when you try to start the car. It's a design fault.

The only Kia dealer I found in Vermont is in Williston which is some miles west of you. Ask your mechanic to call the dealer there

and they may be able to set him up with the necessary parts.

Q I plan to replace the timing chain soon in a 1985 Olds Cutlass. It has a 231 3.8 V-6 two-barrel carb Buick engine. My book indicates that the pan has to be removed on some.

Could you tell me if the pan has to be removed for the above engine? If so, does the engine have to be jacked up for the removal?

J.M. Suffolk, Va.

A Sometimes the official method of doing a job like a timing chain replacement can be fudged a bit.

Once you strip off the front ancillary units and start to remove the timing chain cover you'll probably find you'll have to raise and block up the engine to drop the pan to get at the lower chain sprocket.

If you're careful and lucky, the pan gasket will stay intact and you can seal it and slip it in place when you're done.

You may have to disconnect the exhaust system, too.

Bob Hagin writes for Pacheco Automotive News Service in Concord, Calif. Write to him c/o Hills Newspapers, PO Box 5088, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Bob regrets he cannot answer all his mail.

Lamborghini's latest named for a bull

BY TOM INCANTALUPO
NEWSDAY

U.S. deliveries are to begin early next year of the Murcielago, the first all-new Lamborghini in a decade.

Like other Lambos before it, the Murcielago will have doors that open upwards.

Its 6.2-liter V-12 engine is mounted behind the seats in this two-seat coupe and is rated at 570 horsepower.

Its Italian manufacturer says top speed is 205 mph and that the Murcielago can accelerate from zero to 60 mph in 3.8 seconds. It has permanent four-wheel drive.

The car was named after a 19th century Spanish bull whose life was spared by a famous matador because of his spirit in the ring.

And, believe it or not, even with a \$273,000 base price, a premium audio system costs extra. About 200 Murcielagos will be shipped to the U.S.

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GMC ENVOY 4X4

Suggested Retail	\$33,985
Price as Tested	\$38,320
Engine Type	DOHC 24-valve 4.2-liter I6 w/SMFI*
Engine Size	256 cid/4160 cc
Horsepower	270 @ 6,000 rpm
Torque	275 @ 3,600 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	4,649 pounds
Fuel Capacity	18.7 gallons
Fuel Economy	(F/R) P275/65R17 all-season (F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)
Drive Train	Front-engine/four-wheel-drive
Vehicle Type	Five-passenger/four-door
Mileage	City/highway 15/21
Maximum Towing	6,200 pounds

*Sequential multi port fuel injection

SELL YOUR CAR, BOAT, MOTORCYCLE
THROUGH THE CLASSIFIEDS
IN HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Ford Windstar is the perfect vehicle for a growing family

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Matt: Ford has been in the minivan game since '86 and the Windstar has been the Ford entry into the field since '96.

It's never made a very big impact on the market, though, despite the fact that it's as good as anything in the class and better than some.

Ford has never done a whole lot of advertising or promotion for the Windstar and it may be that most of Ford's advertising efforts have gone into promoting its high-profit line of pickup trucks. Ford has been the top-seller in that field for many years.

Bob: This newest Windstar underwent a thorough makeover in '99 and since then the company has been making a big deal out of its safety features. That year, the Windstar was the first vehicle to get a top rating in all aspects of front and side-impact crash testing.

Its personal safety system will gauge the severity of a crash, the position of the driver's seat and if the seat belts are being used. The system instantly figures out at what level the front airbags should be deployed.

The front seat belts have electronically-controlled gizmos in them that smooth out the forward motion of those in front when they're pitched forward in a collision. I can appreciate this attribute having broken a couple of ribs years ago when the only available restraints were lap belts and I was hit by a truck.

Another plus for the Windstar is a low-pressure indicator for the tires. Low tires have caused lots of tire tread separation incidents which make a vehicle very hard to control.

Tire pressures gradually go down and they're often ignored if a scheduled service is missed. Services are pretty far apart on new vehicles these days and it's easy to let tire pressures go.

Another safety item old-timers like myself will appreciate is a sonic warning device with sensors in the rear bumper that sends a warning beep to the driver if the

MATT AND BOB HAGIN Generation Gap

van is getting too close while backing up. Sometimes I wish I had one of these on my own minivan.

Matt: Mom has told me about some of those incidents, but apparently you haven't gotten into any trouble you haven't been able to talk your way through. The Windstar line dropped its underpowered standard 3.0-liter engine a few years ago and the only engine in the lineup now is a 3.8-liter V-6 that puts out 200 horses and an even better 240 pound-feet of torque.

It's a pushrod unit with only two valves per cylinder, a design that's getting pretty outdated, but it pulls the 4,400-pound Windstar fairly well, keeping in mind that it's a family hauler and not a Mustang GT.

It's a good highway cruiser, however, and there isn't much wind or road noise when it's rolling along.

But I think it could use some sprucing up in the suspension system. It seems a little wallowy to me and the tall tires make a lot of noise on tight turns.

I was also a little surprised to find that the rear brakes are drums which lengthens the stopping distance of any vehicle somewhat but our test unit did have an anti-skid brake system.

The only transmission available is a four-speed automatic and the drive train pushes through the front wheels, a standard feature on all contemporary minivans.

Bob: It's a definite advantage in these small people carriers, Matt. Using front wheel drive lowers the center of gravity a bit and it also opens up more interior space.

There's a third-row seat that folds down but getting into it is a hassle if the second row is comprised of a pair of captain's chairs like our tester. It's made a bit easier by the fact that Windstar has sliding doors on both sides.

A better choice would be the available



FORD MOTOR CO

second-row bench seat that can be mounted so that the rear-seat entry aisle is on either the right or left side of the body.

And although our unit didn't have them, I think that the optional power-adjustable pedals are a neat idea. They allow up to 4 inches of travel so that shorter drivers don't have to wear platform shoes to drive in comfort.

And the rear hatch swings up high enough so that only a person as tall as your brother Brendan would have to duck.

Matt: The minivan started out as an all-American phenomenon, but it's become a big thing all over the world. An entry-level model is even being built for Chinese buyers.

Bob: It's a universal need, Matt. Parents in all corners of the globe want to get the kids as far back in the vehicle as possible and out of their hair.

FORD WINDSTAR SE

Suggested Retail	.....	\$26,999
Price as Tested	.....	\$25,999
Engine Type	.....	OHV 12-valve 3.8-liter V-6 w/SFI
Engine Size	.....	232 cid/3800
Horsepower	.....	200 @ 4,900
Torque	.....	240 @ 3,600
Transmission	.....	Four-speed automatic
Curb Weight	.....	4,359 pounds
Fuel Capacity	.....	26 gallons
Tires	.....	(F/R) P215/70S16 all-season
Brakes	.....	(F/R) Disc (ABS)/drum (A)
Drive Train	.....	Front-engine/front-wheel-drive
Vehicle Type	.....	Seven-passenger/five-door
Mileage	.....	City/highway 17/24

*Sequential multi-point fuel injection

Playing favorites with 2001's best models

BY ROYAL FORD
THE BOSTON GLOBE

So many cars, trucks, minivans, and SUVs. So many roads from California to Germany and points in between. And only 12 months to drive as many as possible.

After a year of pounding the pavement, gravel, mud bog, racetrack, and snowy hill, here are my favorite drives of 2001.

Favorite station wagons

The Audi S6 Avant. Talk about going out to get the groceries. It has 340 horsepower, 310 pound-feet of torque, and 36 cubic feet of cargo space (double that with the rear seat folded down).

Toyota Highlander. Toyota says it's an SUV — it does sit a bit high and come with an AWD option — but I call it a station wagon, and I say it's a great one.

Volkswagen Jetta GLX 2.8 VR6. The Jetta lineup is one of the best on the market, at its prices — around \$19,000 to \$27,000. This thumping little wagon gives good passenger space and decent car go space, and is fun to drive.

Subaru Outback H6-3.0. All that we've come to know and love in the AWD Subaru along with a great new engine, a horizontally opposed six-cylinder with 212 horsepower.

Favorite sports sedans

BMW M3. American muscle car meets precise German technology. It delivers 333 horsepower, corners like it's on rails, and emits a heart-throbbing basso growl from its twin tailpipes.

Volvo S60. Volvo? Sports sedan? You bet. Some of the best from-the-factory bucket seats I've ever seen, 247 horsepower and AWD. That speck in the rearview mirror? The best that Saab can offer.

BMW 330xi. Before anyone writes and accuses me of BMW-bias, a warning. There are more to come. I can't help it if they build great cars.

This one, another AWD performance car, is a great year-round for buyers who want sportiness and utility.

Favorite sports cars

BMW Z8. So what if its \$130,000 MSRP got nearly doubled in some cases by gouging. This is one fine car — retro a la '50s 'Vette at steering wheel and dash, thumpingly Teutonic from powerplant to rear axle.

Corvette Z06. Technologically, the best 'Vette ever built. Great power, great handling. It's a street car you could take racing.

Subaru Impreza WRX. Rally car/sports car. All-wheel drive, lots of ponies in a light car, another street car you could take racing — albeit in far rougher terrain.

Lexus SC 430. You won't go racing with this one, but for smooth, luxurious cruising — and one of the neatest hardtop convertibles you've ever seen — this is the one.

Ford Thunderbird. A no-brainer. Great recreation of the '50s T-Bird. Like the Lexus, a cruiser, not a bruiser.

Honda Civic Si. Just hitting the market. Had it on the twisty back roads of Washington State and the Seattle International Raceway (road course and drag strip). Affordable (under \$20,000), fun and spirited, and part of the hatchback revival.

Favorite SUV/crossovers

Toyota Sequoia. Unless you're into really heavy towing (big cabin cruisers, say), the V-8 engine in this big SUV is perhaps the best V-8 on the market today. Quiet, clean, subtly powerful.

Ford Explorer. The most improved ve-

hicle on the road.

Better crumple zones up front, lowered impact areas so you don't crush occupants of other cars, lowered center of gravity because the rear axle now goes through the frame, and independent rear suspension.

Buick Rendezvous. Buick needed a big crossover — to lower the average new-buyer age of 66. This SUV/wagon is the crossover that may help get it there.

Jeep Liberty. Jeep did a fine job replacing its Cherokee with this rig — a nice combination of onroad smoothness even as it maintains its rugged, offroad capabilities.

Favorite pickup truck

The Dodge Ram 1500 SLT. Mostly because it tells me where Dodge has been and where it may be going. When I first saw it parked in my yard, I thought Power Wagon, circa mid-1940s.

When I drove it, I was impressed not only with its military bearing and utility, but also with its four-door, full rear-seat setup and conveniences fit for contractor or family. Bring back the Power Wagon, and give it some of these amenities.

Ford F-150 King Ranch. Leather like a

fine saddle. Electronic, on-the-dash four-wheel drive. Long bed for long loads. Creature comforts and cargo capacity. Nice combo.

Chevrolet Avalanche. It's an SUV, it's a short bed, it's a long bed. This midgate truck (the window and wall behind the rear seat go away and the rear seat folds down) is a good, if gimmicky, answer for those who want the best of several worlds.

Best minivan

Honda Odyssey. Big, yet very carlike in its handling. Smooth, front-wheel drive, and with a great history of reliability.

It's the best minivan on the market. Toyota's Sienna is a nice rig but not roomy enough. Chrysler and Ford have some catching up to do.

Most sensible car

Can there be any doubt? The Toyota Camry. They've made it bigger, more powerful, added lots of standard features, and cut the price.

Any time people call me looking for reliability and basic transportation, and they don't care about gimmicks, I send them Camry shopping.

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Canyon Village Cir., Winton

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DOG, German, Shet, male,

approx. 1 yr. Found @ 1000

Canyon Village Cir., Winton

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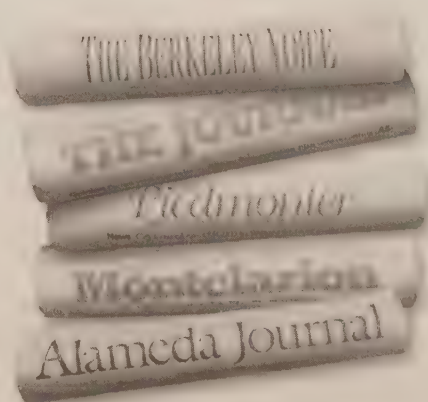
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PRODUCTION ASS**
Good customer
& data entry skills
quired.

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mail and mortgage
files Good state
skills a must

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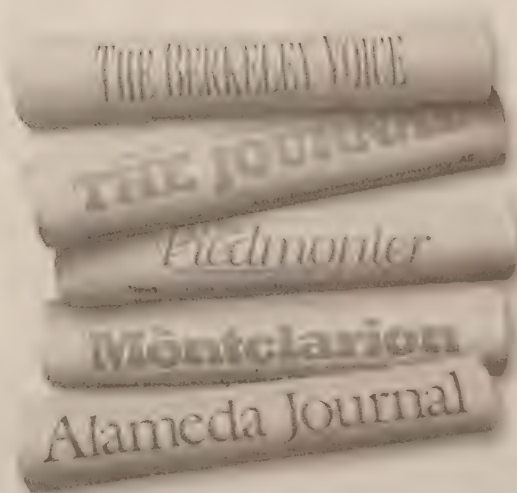
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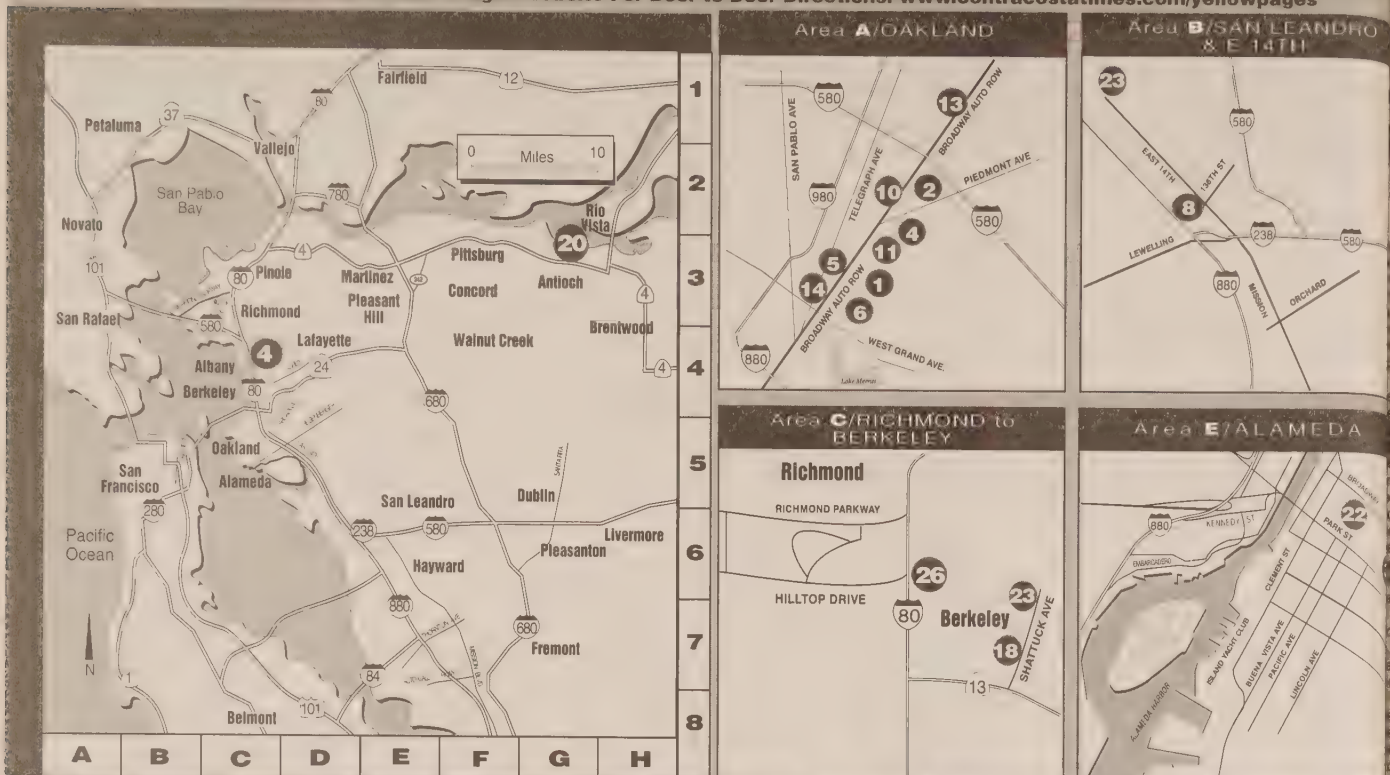
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Shopping Plus

Friday, January 4, 2002

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To blend or chop, the mean machine

BY FLORENCE FABRICANT

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Any blender can be used to prepare some foods that can also be made in a food processor, like mayonnaise and pesto. But the two machines are not interchangeable. In the corner, a blender produces a puree for sauces and soups and does a much better job of making drinks.

But the new Oster In2itive blender blurs the distinction between two machines. Its blender functions have been fine-tuned, and it has some food processor capabilities, like mincing onions and chopping nuts. In fact, it reduced my mince for cookie dough, and it made a chocolate torte, to a more uniform consistency than I could obtain in my food processor. If I needed a new blender, this would be my choice.

The Oster's container is a little larger than the usual blender jar and blade looks like a blender blade wedged into a smallish food processor. The range of its speeds is 10,000 to 16,000 rpm — is remarkable; the top speed is faster than many blenders. The lower speed is similar to that of most food processors, 3,000 to 5,000 rpm.

This is one smart blender. It has programs usable at the touch of a button for automatically chopping, making a chunky mixture like salsa, pureeing baby foods and soups, mixing batters, crushing ice, producing frozen drinks, milkshakes and smoothies. The programs operate at variable speeds to get a preset amount of time.

The variable-speed feature is smart. For example, for chopping there's a very slow, carefully regulated pulse. You get a similar pulse for making salsa. I found it went on better than I would have liked — garden fresh salsa from the booklet came out too fine. Second time I tried salsa I stopped the machine by hand. I wondered if I could whip cream with the machine. The booklet said about it, but I tried a cup of

heavy cream on the milkshake program and it became softly whipped without being overbeaten. Heartened, I then used the machine for my eggnog recipe, with excellent results.

When pureeing a soup, the machine starts slow, speeds up, slows again to allow the mixture to settle a bit, then speeds up. I tried the carrot-dill soup from the recipe booklet and the results were pure velvet, the best blender soup I've ever made.

I was surprised that the instructions for the carrot soup did not include chopping the onion in the machine, which is very easy to do. My own tomato-crab bisque was equally flawless; the machine's speed pulverized the tomato skins, so it wasn't even necessary to strain them out at the end.

The program for batters has similar variations. But there's an important caveat. The recipes that come with the machine are all for the kinds of batters, like crepe mixtures, that I would normally mix in a blender.

No quick breads, muffins or cakes are included. When asked about this, Mary Ann Kraus, vice president for marketing for Sunbeam household products, said the machine is not designed for those batters and the program would overmix them. Unfortunately, the instruction booklet does not tell you this.

The In2itive will not replace a food processor for mixing cake batter, bread dough or pastry, it cannot slice or shred, and it can chop only a small quantity of onions or celery, not a couple of cups.

Its design also makes it harder to remove food from than a food processor or even from my old Oster blender with its screw-on blade housing. In the new machine the blade assembly snaps out. Result? Pea puree on my countertop. And I found that reinstalling the blade and fitting the container onto the base after washing takes practice.

There are two models of the Oster In2itive. One has buttons labeled with the different functions, which sells for about \$100. The other has a small LCD instruction screen on which 40 recipes and all the com-

mands appear; it costs about \$30 more.

The little screen is not backlit, however, and it is easiest to read at arm's length, not when you're right on top of it. Unless your blender is plugged in next to the stove and cutting board, you'll wind up running back and forth to check the recipe on the machine — or referring to the recipe booklet anyway.

Being able to follow the recipe right on the screen is handy, though, when making drinks or anything that requires only a minimum of chopping. But if you're not using an Oster recipe, you have to enter several commands before you find the program you need — a little annoying, when all you want to do is puree peas for the baby. The button model is simpler and more efficient. It's the one I'd buy.

FROTHY EGGNOG

Seeds from 5 cardamom pods
3 whole cloves
3 eggs
½ cup sugar
2 cups whole or lowfat milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¾ cup brandy or bourbon
1 cup heavy cream

Pulverize spices in a food processor or an Oster In2itive blender. Add eggs and sugar; pulse briefly, add 1½ cups milk, pulse again and transfer to heavy saucepan. Wash blender jar or food processor.

In a saucepan over medium heat, cook egg mixture, stirring, until thickened, steam just starts to rise and mixture registers 140 degrees on instant read or candy thermometer. Do not overcook.

Strain into metal bowl and whisk in remaining milk, vanilla and brandy or bourbon. Refrigerate until cold, about 2 hours.

Beat cream until softly whipped, using a food processor or the milkshake cycle on the Oster blender. With blender or processor running on low, pour in chilled egg mixture and blend or pulse just until combined and frothy. Transfer to a serving bowl or small cups and serve.

Yield: 8 to 12 servings. Time: ½ hour, plus 2 hours' chilling.



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANY BLENDER CAN BE USED to prepare some foods that can also be made in a food processor; but the new Oster In2itive blender blurs the distinction between the two machines. Its blender functions have been fine-tuned, and it also has some food processor capabilities, such as mincing onions and chopping nuts.

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Move over margarine — butter's back

BY BEVERLY BUNDY
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS
Butter? Margarine? Butter!
Consumers have been slowly but surely oozing their way back to butter over the past seven years or so. It's not a huge jump, but the category is steadily growing at about 6 percent a year, with Americans now consuming about 4.3 pounds per person a year.

After the scared-of-your-dinner 1980s, this increase is a good sign to dairy farmers, who've watched their countrymen gobble up margarine and other spreads while ignoring the once-golden butter. But butter consumption is still a long way from what it once was.

"There was a time in this country," says Al Costigan, the president of the American Butter Institute, a trade group for dairy farmers and marketers, "that Americans each ate about 16 pounds of butter a year."

Why weren't Americans then keeling over in the streets, clasping their buttered muffins to their chests, their heart muscles seizing? Because in the days before World War II, much of America was agrarian, and we worked off all that saturated fat that so terrified us in the Reagan years.

That was also before America's young men went off to war, leaving the folks behind to mind the store and ration the food so there would be enough for the troops. Rosie the Riveter, and all her buddies at the plant, turned to margarine, that thoroughly modern spread, which was sold as a thick, white paste with a

capsule of food coloring that consumers stirred in to get that rich, yellow butter color.

In 1930, per capita consumption of margarine was only 2.6 pounds (vs. 17.6 pounds of butter). Today, per capita consumption of margarine in the United States is 8.3 pounds (including vegetable-oil spreads), whereas butter consumption is about half that.

But something odd is happening on the way to the gym.

Ice cream consumption rose 14 percent between 1990 and 1998, and many of the most popular flavors are relatively high in cream content.

Cream cheese consumption doubled between 1984 and 1998.

Overall cheese consumption hits new records each year. In 1999, U.S. consumers ate a record 28.9 pounds of cheese per person.

Premium butters are showing up on grocery-store shelves.

As Americans are returning to the butter fold, they're discovering a perfect example of supply and demand. Between the country's rocketing thirst for higher-fat products and ebbing subsidies for the dairy industry, it's sticker shock, not fat shock, that is waking up shoppers.

Butter prices have been on a roller-coaster ride at the cash register, and with holiday baking boosting demand even further, a pound of butter now sells for about \$3.99. According to University of Wisconsin Dairy Marketing numbers, that same pound cost \$3.50 in July and \$2.90 in March.

Land O Lakes, the only national

butter brand, has had to economize because of butterfat prices. The 2001 State Fair of Texas, usually the proud showcase for a statue carved of butter, had to go without this year. Land O Lakes cited the high price of butter for the shortfall in sculpture.

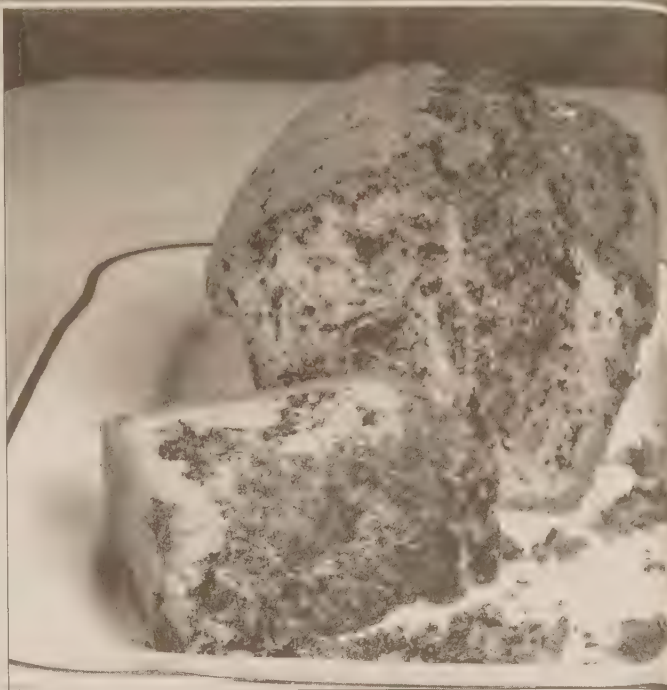
And here's where Mother Nature comes in. The birthing season for cows runs from late winter — January and February — in the South and goes through June for cows in the coldest parts of the country. After delivering their calves, cows produce a great deal of milk — at an inconvenient time (January through May). Butterfat's peak demand season is the summer, for ice cream production, and September through December, for baking.

So, it's an Economics 101 lesson — supply and demand. There's a tightness in supply just when there is the most demand, which means you pay more at the checkout.

But not much of this seems to be dissuading the consumer from going back to the luxury of butter.

To be labeled butter, U.S. regulations say a product must contain 80 percent butterfat. But that wasn't enough for those pesky chefs, who liked the performance of the 82-percent fat butter they could get in Europe. For flaky shells, for puff pastry that actually puffed, there is nothing like the alchemy of butterfat and flour.

And it's not just the chefs who are going for the good stuff when it comes to butter. Grocery stores are stocking an assortment of butter from around the world.



AP/ZEVA OLLBAUM/HARPER COLLINS

A MARBLE LOAF CAKE is an old-fashioned and comforting dessert to have on hand for guests or just plain snacking.

Old-fashioned cake is a great standby

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A homemade marble loaf cake is an old-fashioned and comforting standby to have on hand — especially a version from a baker who's made a specialty of desserts that conform to Jewish dietary needs.

This recipe is from "My Most Favorite Dessert Company" (\$30) by Doris Schechter, a collection of pareve recipes. Schechter is founder of the My Most Favorite Dessert Company, and runs its bakery combined with a restaurant in New York. She defines pareve as "made without those foods designated dairy or meat by the rabbis and therefore acceptable to serve with both — neutral, in other words."

There are about 90 recipes in the book, including loaf and layer cakes, pies, tarts, cookies and Passover baking, some of them shown in color photos.

Schechter's goal was to prove pareve baking could be delicious and elegant, but she points out that users of the book have a choice — "just as you can choose between a pareve and a dairy cake in my restaurant, so can you use butter where margarine is called for in the recipes that follow" — i.e., you can choose to make your own baking pareve or dairy.

MARBLE LOAF CAKE
6 ounces semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ¼ cup vanilla soy milk (see note)
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 extra-large eggs

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease the bottom and sides of a 9-by-5-by-3-inch cake pan. Cut a piece of parchment paper to fit the bottom of the pan and line the pan with it. Do not grease the paper.

In the top of a double boiler set over simmering water, melt the chocolate, stirring occasionally, until smooth and glossy. Remove the pan from the heat, but leave the top of the boiler over the water so that the chocolate remains warm and pourable.

Onto a large sheet of wax paper, sift together the flour, baking powder and salt.

Stir the vanilla into the soy milk.

In the bowl of a standing electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the margarine and sugar on medium speed until light. Scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula.

Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Reduce the mixer speed to low and start adding the dry ingredients, alternating with the soy milk

mixture, beating until the batter is smooth and the ingredients have been fully incorporated.

Spoon the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top with a rubber spatula. Pour the still-melted chocolate over the top of the cake and, with a metal spatula, spread it through the batter, making a marble pattern. Zigzag the spatula through the batter well, including corners of the pan. Really drag the spatula back and forth to ensure a beautiful design in the finished cake.

Bake the loaf for 1 hour, or until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove pan to a wire rack and let cool 5 minutes. Unmold the loaf and remove the paper liner. (If the cake does not unmold immediately, use a thin knife around the edge of the pan, then invert it again, at which point the loaf should drop out.) Place the loaf right side up and cool completely on the rack.

To store the loaf: Wrap it in plastic wrap and store it in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

To freeze: Wrap the loaf in plastic wrap and place it in a freezer bag. Freeze for up to 3 months.

To defrost: On the day you want to serve the loaf, remove it from the freezer, unwrap it completely and let it stand at room temperature until serving time.

Makes one 9-by-5-by-3-inch loaf, 8 to 10 servings.



AP/ZEVA OLLBAUM/HARPER COLLINS

EGGNOG POTS DE CREME served in little cups are a creamy custard tart flavored with nutmeg and vanilla. The recipe is an original creation of Flo Braker, acclaimed for her baking and desserts.

Nutmeg and vanilla give seasonal flavor to French custard (pots de creme)

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Delectable as they are, the rich little custards with a French name, pots de creme, can still benefit from a seasonal twist to reach another degree of dessert finesse.

The pots may be little porcelain pots, custard cups or ramekins. The creme that fills them is related to creme brulee or creme caramel.

In this case, the creamy custard is flavored with nutmeg and vanilla, to suit the Christmas season.

The recipe is an original creation of Flo Braker, author of "The Simple Art of Perfect Baking" and "Sweet Miniatures: The Art of Making Bite-Size Desserts."

EGGNOG POTS DE CREME
1 cup whole milk

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 egg
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Pinch of ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon dark rum, optional
- 1 teaspoon brandy, optional

Preheat oven to 300 F. Over medium heat in a medium heavy-bottomed saucepan, bring milk, cream and sugar just to a boil. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla and let sit for 10 minutes.

In medium bowl, with fork, mix together yolks and egg just to break them up without incorporating a lot of air. Slowly add milk mixture, stirring with wooden spoon.

Strain mixture through sieve into a pitcher; stir in nutmeg, cloves and,

if desired, rum and brandy. Let mixture rest, without stirring, for 1 minute. Skim off any bubbles or foam remaining on surface.

Pour scant ½ cups of mixture into six 4-ounce pot de creme cups or 3-inch ramekins.

Set custards in a baking dish; fill dish with very hot tap water to come about two-thirds up sides of cups.

If using pot de creme cups, cover with lids; otherwise cover pan with aluminum foil.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until custards are set. Remove from oven and water bath to cooling rack. Cool to room temperature; cover and refrigerate 3 hours or overnight. Serve lightly chilled.

Makes 6 servings.
Recipe from California Milk Advisory Board.



AP/ZEVA OLLBAUM/HARPER COLLINS

THERE'S NOTHING MORE COMFORTING after a brisk commute home than a steaming bowl of chili.

Nothing better on a winter's night than bowl of black bean and chicken chili

BY KAREN WOLDEN

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

There's nothing more comforting after a brisk commute home than a steaming bowl of chili.

This healthful recipe calls for cilantro and corn to give it a Southwestern flavor.

Tossing green pepper into the pot at the end gives this dish a nice crunch.

Scoop up the chili with tortilla chips or serve it over white rice. And try to save some for later.

It tastes great reheated and can be frozen for up to three months.

Menu:

- Black bean and chicken chili
- White rice or tortilla chips
- Shredded iceberg salad
- Mexican beer
- Lime sherbet

Time-saving tips:

Cut up vegetables the night before or purchase them at the salad bar.

BLACK BEAN AND CHICKEN CHILI

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into ½-inch pieces
- ¼ cup chili powder or to taste
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) black beans, rinsed, drained
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (15 ounces) hot chili beans
- 1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1½ cups frozen corn

- 2 green bell peppers, chopped
- ½ cup loosely packed cilantro leaves, chopped

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat.

Add onion; cook until it is about 4 minutes.

Add chicken, chili powder, garlic; cook, stirring, until it is slightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Stir in black beans, tomatoes, chili leaves and tomato sauce. Heat to simmer; cover and cook 20 minutes.

Add corn, bell peppers, cilantro; cook until heated and vegetables are tender, 7 minutes.

Taste; adjust seasoning. Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 35 minutes. Yield: 6 servings

Hills Newspapers Shopping Plus: a great resource for what to cook up this and every weekend.

When being a butterfingers is a compliment

BY BEVERLY BUNDY
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Butter is an easy way to add sophistication to a meal. With a little effort, it's a fillip that can add layers to an otherwise plain dish. And the best part? It can be stored in the freezer and pulled out at the last moment for use.

There are some ways to use this trick for a variety of treats: Butter it on a dinner party with a variety of flavored butters such as herb and sun-dried tomato, lightly toasted bread squares, a combination of savory selections will make a colorful and delectable appetizer.

Stack up those ice trays and use them for flavored butters in the freezer. Make a variety of flavored butters and keep them in the freezer for surprise guests or family at home.

Use butters at room temperature to glaze, balls or even create a variety of butter cookie-cutter shapes and then place in the freezer. Try festive shapes like a pumpkin, bell or leaf.

Use disposable decorator bags to create flavored butter and use the entire bag. When ready, defrost butter in refrigerator and bring to room temperature before using to create designs atop courses or as a garnish to any dish. Try placing swirled dollops of butter atop warm bread or

use as an appetizer for a family gathering. For an extra-special touch, place buttery designs on French toast or raisin bread. Use a few tablespoons of flavored butter swirled into a warm sauce and it is removed from the heat and body to the sauce.

Use with pesto, marinara sauce or even gravy.

PUMPKIN SPICE BUTTER
1/2 cup small sugar pumpkin
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon freshly grated or nutmeg

Mix: 4 tablespoons canned pumpkin puree can be used in place of fresh pumpkin; 1/2 teaspoon of pumpkin pie spice can be substituted for cloves, ginger and nutmeg.

Cut pumpkin into quarters and cut side down in a shallow dish. Divide 2 tablespoons of butter and dot the top of each quarter of pumpkin. Sprinkle salt and pepper. Cover with foil and bake

in 350 degree oven, 1 to 1 1/2 hours or until pumpkin is tender.

Remove pumpkin from oven and let cool. Once cooled, scrape pumpkin meat from rind. Discard rind and mix pumpkin meat with remaining 4 tablespoons of butter, sugar and spices in food processor for two to three minutes. Spread or melt this sweet tangy butter on cornbread muffins or add to squash and sweet potatoes for a special treat.

Keep the remaining butter tightly covered in the refrigerator up to three weeks.

Yields 10 to 12 tablespoons

TAHITIAN VANILLA BEAN BUTTER AND APPLES

1 pound butter, softened
3 plump vanilla beans, whole
4 ripe apples, medium sized
Note: Bosc pears can serve as a substitute for apples.

Soften butter by covering it and letting it sit out for at least one hour. Slit vanilla bean pods and scrape seeds out with a paring knife. Discard pods. Once butter is softened, place in food processor with the vanilla bean seeds, puree for approximately one minute and set aside. Blanch apples in boiling water for approximately 15 seconds and run under ice water to stop the cooking process. Peel the skins off the apples, core and cut into quarters.

In a deep sauté pan, over low heat, melt butter. Maintaining low heat, add apples and cook for approximately 10 minutes. Serve the apples by removing from the sauté pan and spooning over dish of choice. Ladle teaspoons of remaining butter over dish to taste.

This fruit concoction is scrumptious served over a slice of pound cake with some whipped cream.

Serves 4-5

BROWN BUTTER COOKIES

2 cups butter
2 cups brown sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 cups all-purpose flour
2/3 cup chopped pecans

Iceing:
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup hot water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat butter over medium heat for 5 minutes or so, until it turns

brown in color. The foaming and bubbling is part of the browning process, but watch it carefully so that you don't burn the butter. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Reserve 1/2 cup of the butter for the

icing. Pour remaining browned butter into a large mixing bowl.

Beat browned butter with brown sugar until the butter is no longer hot. Mix in eggs, vanilla, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Beat thoroughly. Mix in flour and chopped pecans. Drop tablespoons of dough onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake for 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until light brown around the edges. Cool.

For icing, in a medium bowl, mix the reserved 1/2 cup browned butter with vanilla, confectioners' sugar and hot water. Beat until smooth, and frost cooled cookies. Yields 5 dozen.

Butter was limited in geographical reach by climate. Before widespread refrigeration, any country with a hot climate was not butter-friendly. Just about the only warm-weather country that includes butter in its diet is India, where expensive ghee, a form of clarified shelf-stable butter, is used.

Australia and New Zealand, being offshoots of Great Britain, do keep up their end of things. New Zealand has the highest per capita butter consumption in the world at 17 pounds per person.

Studies in the 1990s linked heart problems to stick margarine's trans-fatty acids — fats that are created when vegetable oils are hydrogenated to form a butterlike texture. Although vegetable oils in themselves are considered less harmful to heart health, hydrogenating them and turning them into trans-fatty acids turned them into artery cloggers.

The jury is still out on the trans-fat debate and whether natural fat (i.e. butter) is worse than manufactured fat (i.e. stick margarine). What the jury has decided, however, is that the trans-fatty acids in commercial baked goods, fast-food french fries and burgers (usually coming from shortening or a derivative) should be avoided.

For now, health authorities recommend that consumers switch from stick to tub margarine — the more water in the margarine, the better for the heart. The more whipped the margarine, the better.

Butter, according to the American Heart Association, still trails margarine in the bad-for-you category. — B.B.

Buttery facts

Butter can be frozen in its original wrapper for up to several months. In fact, unsalted butter is best when kept frozen until ready to use. For longer storage, it is best to wrap the butter in foil or plastic, as it can be kept frozen that way for up to nine months at 0 degrees.

Unopened, wrapped butter can also be kept refrigerated for several weeks. To ensure butter keeps its fresh flavor, the California Milk Advisory Board recommends that opened butter be kept in a covered dish in the refrigerator's butter compartment. Butter lovers will tell you, however, that like cheese, butter tastes best at room temperature.

Use unsalted butter with seafood and in baking — its delicate flavor brings out the best in these types of dishes. And in fact, most chefs buy only unsalted and then add salt if necessary. (These are the same chefs who always buy white pepper so it won't show in light dishes and it doesn't matter in dark dishes. They probably also always wear clean underwear in case they get hit by a car.)

For maximum flavor, heat butter before using. Heating releases natural flavor compounds, allowing butter to develop its full, rich taste.

Butter's melting point is very close to body temperature, which means that baked goods made with butter literally melt in your mouth.

A product of northern Europe and North America, butter is not beloved the world around. You can trace butter patterns by simply looking at the desserts countries eat. If a nation's desserts include risen cakes, you can bet its residents eat butter.

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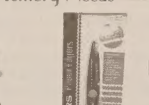
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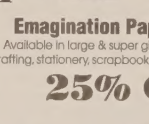
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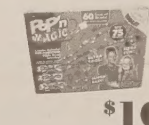


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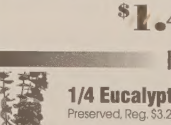


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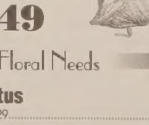


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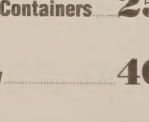
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Rise of California party fare documented in Junior League cookbooks

BY BARBARA HANSEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

If you were dining at the home of an aspiring Los Angeles hostess in 1930, you might have been served smoked salmon appetizers (strips of salmon rolled "around a midget sweet pickle in the form of a calla lily"), followed by tomato bouillon, lobster timbales, baked veal and a frozen chestnut mousse.

Flash-forward 70 years and our hostess' great-granddaughter might offer a fancy spread of curried walnut chicken triangles, duck with dried cherry port sauce, roasted garlic thyme custards, spinach with pancetta and pine nuts, and a gingerbread cake with caramelized pears.

Trace the source of all of the party dishes on California tables, and it's likely that many originated in a Junior League cookbook. These popular collections of home-tested recipes record the development of a certain kind of cutting-edge California cuisine from the '30s to the present day. That first menu comes from "The Junior League Recipe Book" published in Los Angeles in 1930, the latter from "Dinner With Good Friends" (very good friends, one might say) by the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay published in June.

Celebrating its centennial this year, the Junior League was founded in 1901 in New York City and its chapters have spread to Great Britain, Canada and Mexico. Until recently, membership was limited to women ages 20 to 40, who devoted themselves to charitable work. Today, the age restrictions have largely vanished, and league members pursue careers as well as volunteer work. No longer are they just "young women of leisure," as they are described in the introduction to the old Los Angeles league book.

As one of the organization's chief fund-raising tools, Junior League cookbooks have always found an enthusiastic audience among California readers because the recipes fit the needs of the average cook, from simple fast dishes to food fancy enough for company — "good home cooking with a little bit of panache," says one fan.

They reflect regional tastes, ingredients are easy to find, procedures are straightforward, and enthusiasm floods their pages. There's a feeling of comfort and security in using recipes from women who could be friends or neighbors, often accompanied by glowing comments. "A great mid-week supper. Your kids will love it," says the introduction to Tijuana torte, an easy casserole of ground beef, cheese and tortillas in "California Sizzles" (1992) by the Junior League of Pasadena.

"Delicious is an understatement for this coffee cake" goes with a frosted oatcake in "Delicious Decisions" by the Junior League of San Diego (1987). And who could resist chocolate caramel shortbread bars that are "sinfully rich and wonderful" from "California Fresh Harvest," the recent book by the Oakland-East Bay Junior League.

Recipes come from popular restaurants, caterers, hotels and bakeries as well as league members. While "California Fresh Harvest" offers candied ginger shortcakes with peaches from the Point Arena Bakery, and picholine olives braised with white wine and lemon from Chez Panisse, the 1930 L.A. book includes a cold julienne of chicken en aspic from the California Club, milk-fed chicken Jerusalem from the Town House, and spring chicken saute mascot from the Biltmore Hotel.

The books change with the times, not only in terms of culinary fashion, but in deeper ways. A decade after that 1930 cookbook, the league produced another. This one is sprinkled with practical dishes for women whose lives and resources had been affected by economic changes. The Depression had taken its toll, and World War II was on the horizon.

These leagues could turn to practical recipes for tamale pie, "Mexican" chili, "supper" spaghetti and macaroni in a chapter of "Sunday Night Suppers." Scattered through other chapters are such classics of economy as lentil soup with wieners, tuna supreme (tuna, rice and ketchup mixed with white sauce) and "Italian Delight" (noodles, corn, canned tomato soup and cheese combined with cooked veal or chicken). Interestingly, the name "risotto" makes its debut in this book. But instead of the Italian rice dish, it was a baked dish of Hungarian goulash and rice topped with peas.

Even the way the books were put together changed. In the 1930 book, recipes were written without much detail and were only tested by the women who contributed them. What is lacking in detail is compensated for with quaint charm. To make Mom's Brunswick Stew, you need "1 heavy hen (not too old)." This you "put in pot and cook until meat comes off the bones. Remove bones. Put meat back in liquid and add 1 can tomatoes, 1 can corn, 1 can lima beans." The seasonings are "about three tablespoons Worcestershire and a little Tabasco(sic)," and salt. The last step is to "peel four potatoes and add them" about an hour before chicken is done "how long does it take to cook that tough old hen?"

Leagues today put more effort into honing their recipes than the authors of some commercially published books. They may be triple-tested in home kitchens, graded on evaluation forms, tasted at committee meetings and revised and improved.

As well they should. Junior League cookbooks sometimes circulate for years. The older, out-of-print books occasionally turn up at used book stores, book sales and thrift shops. Buyers snap them up, often at bargain prices, appreciating their historical value and local flavor.

You don't have to be a cook to love the 1964 book by the Junior League of Pasadena, "Pasadena Prefers." This spiral-bound book was divided into sections that reflected the leisure-minded society of that day. Leagues designed their meals around tailgating, "riding and racquets," lawn sports (shuffleboard, badminton), skiing, golf, armchair sports and parlor games. Reflecting an improved economy, the chapter on "Yachting, Boating, Sailing and Snorkeling" addresses the requirements of those with boat smaller than 40 feet and those playing the seas in larger vessels. The parlor games chapter notes that "Charades, dancing, conversation for adults in evening clothes — require extraordinary dinners."

By this time, food had become self-consciously "gourmet." A recipe for "Gourmet White Wine and Gruyere Casserole" specified, in italics, that "imported" Gruyere should be used.

Some books are general recipe collections, appetizers to desserts. Others are organized around themes. "R.S.V.P.: A Complete Cookbook and Entertaining Guide" published by the Junior League of Newport Harbor, Calif., in 1982, covers every aspect of party giving: invitation design, table settings, centerpieces, serving pieces, napkin folds, a countdown schedule, menus and recipes.

"California Sizzles" focuses on easy dishes that can be prepared quickly and that typify the California lifestyle. "California Fresh Harvest" explores crops, commodities and tourist attractions of Northern California in a format as worthy of a cocktail table as a kitchen counter.

Pasadena's "The California Heritage Cookbook" (1976) weaves the state's history through its chapters and displays antique maps on its end papers. "San Francisco a la Carte," produced in 1979 by the Junior League of San Francisco, tours the city highlights and tells how to make such local specialties as Palace Court salad, Green Goddess salad dressing, cioppino and fried cream.

The effort that went into compiling these books was motivated by more than league pride. "The most important message about the cookbooks is they are really a means to an end," says Jane A. Silverman, executive director of the Association of Junior Leagues International. "They (the leagues) use them to fund just great, great projects."

Time-tested Junior League recipes

The following recipes are selected from California Junior League cookbooks, old and new.

WARM UPSIDE-DOWN PEAR CAKE WITH TANGERINE CUSTARD SAUCE

Topping:
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup water
3 large Bartlett or Bosc pears, peeled, cored and cut into thin slices

Butter a 9-inch round cake pan. Stir the sugar and water in a nonstick skillet over low heat until the sugar dissolves. Increase the heat and simmer, without stirring, until the color is a deep amber, about 10 minutes, swirling the pan occasionally and brushing down the sides with a wet pastry brush. Pour the caramel into the prepared pan, tilting to coat the bottom. Overlap the pears in concentric circles on top of the caramel.

Cake:
1 1/2 cups flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) plus 1 tablespoon butter, room temperature
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons grated tangerine zest

3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons whipping cream
3 tablespoons Cognac
1/2 cup chopped pecans
Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Stir the flour, baking powder and salt together in a small bowl. In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the eggs and zest and beat until light and fluffy.

Combine the milk, cream and Cognac in a small bowl. Alternately add the flour mixture and the milk mixture to the butter mixture in thirds, stirring to blend after each addition. Stir in the nuts. Pour the batter over the pears.

Bake until the cake is golden and a tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Let cool in the pan on a rack for 5 minutes. Run a knife around the edges, place a platter over the cake, and invert. Let rest for 1 minute, then remove the pan. Serve the cake warm, with the cold Tangerine Custard Sauce on the side.

Tangerine Custard Sauce:
1/4 cup sugar 2 egg yolks 1 cup

half-and-half Grated zest of 2 tangerines 1 teaspoon tangerine juice 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Whisk the sugar and egg yolks together in a bowl.

In a small, heavy saucepan, bring the half-and-half and zest just to a simmer; do not boil. Gradually whisk half the hot mixture into the yolk mixture. Return to the saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the custard thickens and coats a spoon, about 5 minutes. Do not boil. Strain the custard into a clean bowl. Whisk in the tangerine juice and vanilla. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days.

NOTE: If tangerines are not available, substitute orange zest and juice.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.
Active work time: 45 minutes; total preparation time: 2 hours plus 2 hours chilling.

From "San Francisco Flavors," published by the Junior League of San Francisco in 1999.

ROASTED PORTABELLO AND ENDIVE SALAD

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup soy sauce
2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger root

Pepper
4 large portabella mushrooms, stemmed
1 large red bell pepper
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1/4 cup champagne or other white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons minced shallots
2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt
8 endive leaves

Combine the balsamic vinegar, soy sauce, ginger and 1 teaspoon of pepper in a shallow glass dish and mix well. Place the mushrooms in the marinade and turn to coat. Leave them gill-side down to marinate 1 hour.

Meanwhile, using tongs, hold the pepper over a gas flame, turning until blackened, about 10 minutes. Set it in a paper bag or glass bowl covered with plastic wrap to steam, 10 minutes. Peel the skin and discard, then chop the pepper and set aside. (You can also place the pepper beneath the broiler until blackened on all sides.)

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the dish of portabellos in the oven and roast for about 6 minutes. Turn them over and roast until lightly browned, another 6 minutes. Remove the mushrooms from the oven and let cool. Cut each mushroom into 5 to 6 pieces. Set aside.

In a blender or food processor, puree the bell pepper, olive oil, champagne vinegar, shallots, garlic, salt and pepper to taste until smooth. Taste for seasoning. You'll have about 1 cup.

Arrange the endive leaves on 4 plates. Place the portabella slices on the endive and drizzle half the roasted-pepper puree on top. Serve.

Active work time: 20 minutes; total preparation time: 30 minutes plus 1 hour marinating.

Makes 4 appetizer servings.
Each serving: 144 calories; 582 mg sodium; 0 cholesterol; 14 grams fat; 2 grams saturated fat; 5 grams carbohydrates; 2 grams protein; 1.18 grams fiber.

NOTE: You'll use about half the dressing in this recipe; save the rest for another use.

From "San Francisco Flavors" by the Junior League of San Francisco (1999).

CHOCOLATE CARAMEL SHORTBREAD BARS

Shortbread Layer:
1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar

2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Heat the oven to 350 degrees.
Beat the butter and sugar in a bowl on medium speed until creamy, 3 to 4 minutes. Mix the flour and baking powder together and beat into the butter mixture.

Pat the dough into the bottom of a 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from the oven. Let stand until cool.

Caramel Layer:
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
3/4 cup sweetened condensed milk

2 tablespoons light corn syrup
Combine the butter, brown sugar, condensed milk and corn syrup in a saucepan and mix well. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Boil, stirring constantly, until a candy thermometer registers 238 degrees, 10 to 12 minutes. Pour over the shortbread layer. Cool.

Chocolate Layer:
1 cup chopped pecans, optional
2 cups (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips

Toast the pecans in a dry skillet over medium heat, stirring, until lightly browned, 5 to 6 minutes.

Heat the chocolate chips in a double boiler set over, but not touching, simmering water, or in a microwave, until melted. Stir to blend. Spread the chocolate over the cooled caramel layer. Sprinkle with the pecans and press them lightly into the chocolate. Let cool before cutting into bars.

Makes 48 bars.
Active work time: 20 minutes; total preparation time: 1 1/2 hours.

From "California Fresh Harvest" by the Oakland-East Bay Junior League (2001).

FROSTED OATCAKE

2 1/2 cups water
2 cups oatmeal
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 cups brown sugar, packed
4 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan. Bring the water to a boil in a saucepan. Add the oatmeal, reduce the heat and cook until the water is absorbed, about 5 minutes. Remove the oatmeal from the heat and set aside. Allow it to cool to room temperature.

Cream the butter in a large mixing bowl and gradually beat in the granulated and brown sugars. Blend in the eggs and vanilla and beat for 2 minutes. Add the oatmeal.

Mix the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in a separate bowl. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the sugar-butter mixture and blend in. Mix for 2 minutes.

Pour the batter in the pan. Bake the cake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Allow the cake to cool before frosting.

Frosting:
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted

1 cup brown sugar, packed
1/3 cup whipping cream
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

1 1/2 cups flake coconut
Combine the butter, sugar, cream, nuts and coconut and spread over the cooled cake.
Makes 15 to 18 servings.

Active work time: 30 minutes
Total preparation time: 2 hours
From "Delicious Decisions: The Junior League of San Diego" (1987).

CHICKEN TAMALES

1 (4-pound) chicken
1 1/2 cups cornmeal
1 teaspoon chili powder
1 teaspoon paprika
2 teaspoons salt
2 cups milk
1 1/2 cups sliced black olives
Grease a 2-quart baking dish and set aside.

Place the chicken in a Dutch oven and cover with water. Bring to a boil and cook 15 minutes. Drain the chicken, reserving 3 cups of the stock. Remove skin and bones and discard. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Bring the reserved stock to a boil and add the cornmeal, chili powder, paprika and salt, stirring smooth. Add the milk, whisking to avoid any lumps, and cook until the mixture is slightly thickened. Drain readily from a spoon. Pour the mixture into the baking pan.

Bake the pie until lightly browned on top and heated through, 20 minutes. Serve Chili Cream Sauce.

Chili Cream Sauce:
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon flour
1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk
3 tablespoons finely chopped canned pimientos

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat and stir in flour until smooth. Cook, stirring, 3 minutes. Add the chili powder and salt, then add the milk, cooking, stirring, until the sauce thickens. Add the pimientos and cook 1 minute until slightly thickened. Serve hot with the Tamale Pie.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.
Active work time: 20 minutes
Total preparation time: 1 1/2 hours

From "Junior League Recipes" published by the Junior League of Los Angeles in 1930. This recipe contributed by Mrs. Brian appeared in a chapter titled "Fish-Mexican." Chicken

GOURMET WHITE WINE GRUYERE CASSEROLE

1 clove garlic, crushed
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened

6 slices stale bread, crust removed
3 eggs
1 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup chicken stock
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 scant teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard
1/2 teaspoon paprika
Dash cayenne pepper
1/2 pound grated Gruyere cheese (2 cups)

2 green onions, tops chopped
Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Blend the garlic with the butter one side of the bread and cut in strips to fit a 1- or 1-1/2-inch shallow casserole. Line the bottom and sides of the casserole with bread, butter side down. Beat eggs lightly, then add the stock, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, paprika and cayenne pepper, beating gently. Gradually mix in the cheese and onion tops; the mixture over the bread. Bake until the custard is firm, about 1 1/2 hours.

Makes 4 to 6 servings.
Active work time: 20 minutes
Total preparation time: 1 1/2 hours

From "Pasadena Prefers" published by the Junior League of Pasadena in 1930.

The business of Junior League cookbooks

BY BARBARA HANSEN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cookbooks produced by junior leagues are not only popular, they're major fund-raisers for charity. Putting them out has become serious business, involving scrupulous recipe testing, professional photography and food styling, fancy graphics and forewords by celebrities such as chef Alice Waters.

Marketing and sales may involve commercial distributors and publishers. Two books by the Junior League of Pasadena, Calif., and two by the San Francisco league were published by Doubleday. Another book, "San Francisco Flavors," was published by Chronicle Books. Prices are usually slightly lower than for most commercial cookbooks; most junior league books cost less than \$25.

Some bookstores make a point of carrying league books. "If one is presented to us and it looks good, we carry it," says Jodi Kintler, general book buyer for Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena. "We probably have at any one time eight to 10 titles."

The Richard J. Riordan Central Library in downtown Los Angeles has more than 100 league titles in its collection.

"Most of them are older, so a

lot of them are reference," says Helen Haskell, librarian. "They are oftentimes rare."

The Association of Junior Leagues International in New York City has prepared for its Web site (www.ajli.org) a list of 215 league cookbooks, but it only goes back to 1950. There have certainly been more, but the list does not include old books that have vanished from circulation.

Among these is "The Junior League Recipe Book" privately printed in 1930 by the Los Angeles league, and the 1939 "Santa Barbara Junior League Cook Book."

Also missing are brand-new books such as "California Fresh Harvest: A Seasonal Journey through Northern California" by the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, which came out in June.

This book has twin forewords by Alice Waters of Chez Panisse and winemaker Gina Gallo of E&J Gallo Winery. Waters has offered to sign cookbooks and to collaborate with the league on a future fund-raising event.

Recipes from 200 leagues are included in the "The Junior League Centennial Cookbook" (Doubleday; 1996), compiled by the international association.

"In any given year, the Junior Leagues in aggregate may pub-

lish as many as 200 cookbooks that raise several million dollars," the introduction to that book states.

The first California Junior League was established in 1912 in San Francisco. Today the state has 17 leagues, 12 of which have produced cookbooks.

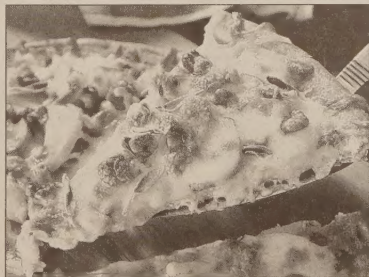
The most prolific is the Junior League of Pasadena, which has compiled six books, starting with the modest spiral-bound "Pasadena Prefers" in 1964.

Currently in circulation are "California Sizzles" (1992) and "Dining by Design" (1999), which is designed around room settings created by the Pasadena branch of the Association of Interior Designers.

The San Francisco league has produced "San Francisco a la Carte" (1979); "San Francisco Encore" (1986) and "San Francisco Flavors" (1999).

But Elizabeth Wolfe, managing editor of "California Fresh Harvest," warns that publishing a charity cookbook is not for the faint of heart.

"It's a big endeavor to do one of these projects," she says. "When the league takes on a new cookbook, we are looking at two to four years of research. The book will be in print and distributed for 10 to 15 years."



BOB FILA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dinner tonight: Try this squash and sage pizza

BY RENEE ENNA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It is difficult to wrest oneself from tomatoes and pizza, a combination that seems as indelibly linked as Chef and Boyardee. But why not try something different?

This version uses harvest notes: squash, sage and toasted walnuts. Once you try this pizza, you'll quickly catch on that an adventurous hand with ingredients will yield many variations — with or without tomatoes.

The wide availability of prepared pizza crusts makes a new approach to pie easy. Many quick-crust options are available at the

supermarket.

Another point: If younger diners don't see creative as a boon, buy or make smaller single-size crusts, and let them make their own with the classic standby of pizza sauce and mozzarella.

Cooking time will be about the same.

Time-saving tips:

■ Pressed cheese travels far beyond mozzarella. Four-cheese versions (mozzarella, provolone, Romano and Parmesan) and six-cheese varieties that add fontina and asiago are sold.

■ For easier cleanup, invest in non-stick pans or spray your pans

with cooking spray.

■ Check the directions: crusts are designed to rest on the oven racks, meaning less pan to clean.

■ This pizza freezes well: two and freeze one for later.

SQUASH AND SAGE PIZZA

Crumbled blue cheese is used instead of the white cheeses.

2 tablespoons extra-virgin oil

1 each, small, thinly sliced squash, zucchini

Salt, freshly ground pepper

1 10- to 12-inch prepared crust

1 cup (4 ounces) chopped nuts

1/2 cup fresh sage leaves, chopped, or 2 teaspoons dried

1 package (8 ounces) dried Italian cheese blend

Heat oven according to directions. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in large skillet. Cook squash, limp, about 3 minutes.

Vegetables with salt and ground pepper. Remove from heat.

Brush remaining tablespoons on pizza crust. Top with squash, salt, and sage. Bake 10 minutes.

Preparation time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 15 minutes
4 servings.

Chocolate: indulge your darkest passions

BY JOHN GRIFFIN
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

The cacao tree, fount of all chocolate, still inspires terms of divine nature — and quite as well of an equally opposite nature. Whether it's the devil's food or heaven-sent creation, chocolate is an almost religious passion among its fans.

To some, it is better than sex — at least its equal. It sets the heart racing and the spirit soaring. Yet it remains elusive, impossible to tame for nonbelievers. Cindy Mushet, who has taught at the California School of Culinary Arts, has a job most cacao cravers would envy. She is a pastry chef, one who dabbles in chocolate like an artist in oils. "Every time I get to wake up and smell chocolate," she says.

Because it melts at a lower temperature than many other solids — chocolate should only get hot, not hot. So tend it closely as it's melting or it could burn in the second. That's not something you want to taste. "Scorched chocolate is like a tannic wine — it's all the moisture out of your mouth," she says.

Dark chocolate and white chocolate are even more delicate than bittersweet chocolate and require that more attention. For this reason, it's a good idea to break chocolate bars down in tiny pieces before melting, so that they melt quickly and more evenly. Chocolate chips are designed to hold up when baked into cookies, so they are not as practical as chocolate when it comes to baking, says David Lebowitz of San Francisco, a former pastry cook at the famed Chez Panisse.

Also, make sure when you are baking with cocoa powder to check the label. Dutch-processed cocoa is not the same as natural. Dutch-processed cocoa is alkalized to remove its natural acidity, while natural cocoa is what the name implies. In baking, you would use baking powder with Dutch-processed cocoa and baking soda with natural cocoa, she says.

Chocolate has long been thought of as a forbidden pleasure. Eating this good has to be bad. So we feel guilty about satisfying our cravings. But should we? Since the fourth century, chocolate has been exploited for its therapeutic values, both as a stimulant and a source of comfort. The Mayas, who first discovered its magic, found a more direct medicinal use for it: They rubbed cocoa butter into their wounds.

Today's scientific studies on the nature of cacao and its effects are going much further into how beneficial chocolate might be. The mood enhancer, known as phenylethylamine, is said to "mimic the feelings people have when they are in love," according to Robert Steinberg, one of the country's leading chocolate makers.

But Steinberg has his doubts about that. He is the creator of Scharffen Berger Chocolate, "the first new chocolate in the United States set up in the last 50 years," and he has a medical background. "I'm a physician, not a food professional," he says.

It's hard to prove the effects of a single food on the body because it's so hard to isolate within the system, he explains.

Other studies showing chocolate to be an antioxidant, like red wine or tea, are much more promising, in Steinberg's opinion. So are those that suggest chocolate can raise good cholesterol, reduce bad cholesterol and prevent plaque formation near the heart.

In its bittersweet form, chocolate has a good amount of iron, fiber and potassium, as well as traces of vitamins.

The right chocolate

At the grocery, you'll encounter four varieties: unsweetened, dark with sugar added, milk and white. Unsweetened has no sugar, and some will have to be added or your dish will be too bitter for most. Dark chocolate comes in several forms. Bittersweet has 55 to 80 percent cocoa (the percent is marked on the label). Semisweet chocolate can have as little as 35 percent, while sweet dark chocolate can have as little as 15 percent cocoa. Bittersweet is the style of chocolate preferred by most bakers because it is rich and full of chocolate flavor.

When a recipe calls for "chocolate," this is what should be used, unless the recipe specifies otherwise. Milk chocolate is sweeter and milder than dark chocolate. The percentage of cocoa is much lower; it must contain at least 10 percent cocoa and 12 percent milk. Most candy bars are made with milk chocolate.

White chocolate contains no cocoa solids. Instead, it is made from cocoa butter, sweetened with sugar and vanilla and made creamy with milk. Besides specialty chocolates, which are expensive, try Baker's, Ghirardelli, Guittard, Nestle's and Hershey's. Don't discount them. Their quality is not as low as their prices.

John Griffin can be reached at jgriffin@express-news.net

Blooming brews

BY RENEE ENNA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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